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Mount Royal's newest space on campus is open to all
metroNEWS

Dr. Carolyn Bennett, federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, joined Elder Miiksika'am (Clarence Wolfleg) in Mount Royal's new tipi for a ceremonial blessing. JENNIFER FRIESEN / FOR METRO

'Curriculum process so far removed from accountability'

ALBERTA EDUCATION

Rebuild shrouded in controversy — and a little confusion

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

The former director of curriculum development and research for Edmonton Public School Board said he's never seen a curriculum-building process as secretive as the one currently being undertaken by Alberta Education.

Metro previously reported on the provincial government's undertaking of a full curriculum overhaul and how the names of individuals at the reins — the "expert working groups" — aren't being made public.

Stuart Wachowicz said he applied and was accepted to present to one of the expert working groups and said he had no idea who he was even presenting to.

"The government claims it's a very transparent process, but even people like myself who are presenting to them don't even know who is in those groups," he said. "I have never before seen or heard of a curriculum process so far removed from the public, so far removed from accountability, and so far removed from the interest of Alberta children."

Metro attempted to acquire the information through a Freedom Of Information and Privacy Act request through Alberta Education but was told that it would be released within 60 days (around Feb. 13). When Metro asked why the information wouldn't be released until six months after the process began they cited privacy concerns.

"We intend to release more information about the Expert Working Groups in the coming months, but there are privacy considerations that must be considered and analyzed on a case-by-case basis. This work takes time," Alberta Education said in an emailed statement.

Wildrose education critic Leela Aheer said this does nothing for transparency, adding that parents and educators need to know the groups aren't stacked exclusively with people who possess the "NDP worldview."

"It's vitally important that Albertans are able to assess the backgrounds of those appointed to ensure this redesign is fair," she said.

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Lot 14-34: Urban Townhome, **The Opus Corner 'Craftsman', 1,361 Sq.Ft. $369,990** 3 bed, 2.5 bath

Included Upgrades: Gas fireplace, pot lights and quartz in kitchen, laminate and tile flooring, upgraded carpet throughout second floor, rec room ready package in basement, washer & dryer, corner lot location with south facing balcony, upgraded paint.

Lot 11-21: Village Home, **The Swing 'Contemporary', 1,410 Sq.Ft. $279,990** 2 bed, 2.5 bath

Included Upgrades: Pot lights in kitchen and over main tub, upgraded kitchen cabinets and paint colour, upgraded quartz in ensuite and kitchen, upgraded carpet on upper floor and stairs, upgraded faucet in powder room, subway tile backsplash in kitchen.

Lot 19-04: Laned Home, **The Iris 'Craftsman', 1,658 Sq.Ft. $457,990** 3 bed, 2.5 bath

Included Upgrades: 9' main floor ceiling with 8' doors, gas fireplace, rec room ready pkg, under cabinet lighting and full depth fridge cabinet, oak railings, pot light over tubs, upgraded carpet, upgraded hardwood on main, upgraded kitchen backsplash, quartz counter in ensuite, rear detached double car garage.

Lot 17-60: Double-Car Garage Home, **The Mission 'Prairie', 1,811 Sq.Ft. $466,990** 3 bed, 2.5 bath

Included Upgrades: 9' main floor with 8' doors, gas fireplace, rec room ready pkg, sous kitchen pkg, maple railings throughout, pot light over main bath and ensuite, upgraded hardwood and carpet, upgraded backsplash and quartz in kitchen, upgraded cabinetry throughout.

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Lot 18-10: Double-Car Garage Home, **The Kingsley 'Prairie', 1,758 Sq.Ft. $439,990** 3 bed, 2.5 bath

Included Upgrades: 9' main floor ceiling, rec room ready pkg, gas fireplace and hardwood in great room, bath oasis, metal spindle railing, master cabinetry pkg, full height cabinets, knockdown ceilings, upgraded carpet and trim, tile in all wet areas, granite and upgraded backsplash in kitchen.

Lot 5-26: Double-Car Garage Home, **The Opal 'Prairie', 2,328 Sq.Ft. $479,990** 3 bed, 2.5 bath

Included Upgrades: walkout, 9' main floor, bath oasis, rec room ready pkg, under cabinet lighting, full depth fridge upper, full height cabinets, glass shower in ensuite, pot light over tub, upgraded carpet and paint colour, hardwood, mosaic kitchen backsplash, maple railings and fireplace mantle, washer/dryer, blinds.

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news
In 20 years, half of Canada could be immigrants or children of immigrants. Canada

Tenant rights group to lobby for rent controls

HOUSING

Renters Action Movement says act benefits landlords

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Donna Clarke keeps hearing about how it's a renter's market in Calgary right now. She just doesn't buy that argument.

"I think there's no such thing as a renters market without rent controls," she said.

Clarke along with nine other people have been meeting regularly every two weeks for the past eight months to talk tenant issues in Calgary and Alberta.

Their organization, Renters Action Movement (RAM), aims to be a tenants' advocacy group.

Their top agenda item at the moment is lobbying for rent control. They've been collecting signatures on a petition door-to-door and at CTrain stations.

"We aren't at present advocating for any particular model of rent control — just the idea," said Clarke.

She said rent control in other jurisdictions generally involves tying rent increases to the rate of inflation, tax rate, and how much a landlord has invested in the property.

DETAILS

Renters Action Movement meets every second week upstairs above the Co-op at 1130 11 Avenue S.W. Check their Facebook group for meeting times.

Currently, with Alberta's boom and bust economy, there's nothing to stop a landlord from doubling the rent at the end of a lease. Clarke said as the economy heats up again, the ball will again be in landlords' courts.

Landlords, of course, disagree with that assertion. Gerry Baxter, executive director of the Calgary Residential Rental Association, said there are plenty of studies to show that rent controls just don't work.

"It's tinkering with the market and artificially-lowered rents typically lead to a runaway demand," said Baxter.

Baxter said rent subsidies for those who need them are a much better way of giving a hand up to those who need it.

RAM is also pushing for legislation that's more balanced, and less weighted towards landlords.

Gabriel Chen, a RAM member and lawyer with Calgary Legal Guidance, said he joined the group because he's seen how tenants fare in the legal system.

"I don't think the systems that we have in place serve tenants very well," said Chan.

Donna Clarke joined other members of the Renters Action Movement for a meeting downtown on Wednesday evening. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

INFRASTRUCTURE

Architects, engineers sought for Olympic bid

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

The Olympic Bid Committee has effectively opened its $2.3-million floodgates to companies and contractors that will help them see if the city's infrastructure is fit for the world stage.

Looking at the city's "venues" according to the refined CBEC budget is one of the top responsibilities of the bid exploration plan and will make up 47 per cent of the $5-million budget.

And last week, they set that plan in motion by issuing a request for proposals to find any and all qualified vendors.

"We're going to be contracting with a variety of professionals, and that includes architectural and engineering specialists to assist in our work," said CBEC spokesman Sean Beardow. "A lot of these contractors are going to be engaged ... as needed."

The city's current Olympic infrastructure dates back to 1988, so before embarking on another winter bid process, councillors need to know how the old buildings would fare with the 21st century games.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi has been vocal against building sports infrastructure because of new International Olympic Committee rules, which he says largely frown on new infrastructure builds.

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Photo taken by Calgary Police Service upon search of the Garland home. In Douglas Garland's bedroom police marked a book titled Handbook to Poisoning as evidence. CONTRIBUTED

Officer talks of chilling finds at Garland's home

MURDER TRIAL

Police sifted through property over 10 months

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Const. Ian Oxton broke momentarily, choking up, as he told court about sifting through ashes from the Garland farm for nearly 10 months, finding 17 fragments of what he believed to be teeth.

Oxton told court of how after collecting 120 gallons of ashes from the farm in March 2015 he began the tedious process of sifting through the ashes.

During his search, he found a pair of glasses, a small earring, buttons and pieces of shackles, along with two kilograms of biological material (teeth fragments and hair), and part of a circuit board for a Toyota vehicle key in the ash from the farm where the Crown alleges Douglas Garland killed and burned the bodies of five-year-old Nathan O'Brien and his grandparents Alvin and Kathy Liknes in the summer of 2014.

Garland is standing trial for three counts of first-degree murder in relation to their deaths.

On Wednesday, the second day of Oxton's testimony, he told the court of apparent flattening and discolouration also visible in the grass near three south outbuildings on the Garland farm.

"I remember some of the tips of the grass being black... like they'd been chemically burned," he said.

In the three south outbuildings, Oxton said investigators found more disturbing evidence.

He testified Tuesday of finding dozens of handcuffs, restraints and a straight jacket found on the farm, as well as of weapons such as daggers, whips, handguns and more restraints — and even a bag of adult diapers.

> I believe these to be handcuffs we generally use to restrain youth, children or small adults.
> Const. Ian Oxton, testifying about some of the dozens of handcuffs he found at the home of Douglas Garland

"I believe these to be handcuffs we generally use to restrain youth, children or small adults," he said of one pair of cuffs recovered.

In the Garland home, in a bedroom believed to be Douglas Garland's, Oxton said they found Tyvek suits, chemical gloves, and various literature, including a book called Handbook of Poisoning.

In the garage of the home, Oxton said they found both chloroform and insulin, and near another outbuilding on the farm police found three liquid nitrogen containers, according to the constable, who said RNase Away, an agent used to "destroy DNA," was also found.

Exhibits collected were sent away for DNA testing, according to Oxton.

Court is expecting to hear from a DNA expert in charge of testing in this case and about the results of those tests later in the trial.

Oxton testified that he conducted tests on Garland's green Ford F150 truck.

Using a presumptive test called Blue Star —where a chemical is sprayed making blood glow — Oxton said he got positive results for blood on numerous areas of the truck including the bed, tailgate and licence plate.

Grizzlies may get more trails. JIM URQUHART / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

CONSERVATION

Trailmaking can help keep grizzlies safe

Giving grizzlies better travel paths and sightlines along rail lines is the best way to keep the bears safe from trains, a five-year study has concluded.

"We're actively going to be more involved in creating more trails for bears to be able to move past impediments on the railroad," Rick Kubian, a Parks Canada superintendent for Lake Louise, Yoho and Kootenay national parks, said Wednesday.

Between 2010 and 2015, at least 11 grizzly bears at any one time were being tracked with radio collars to find out where, when and sometimes why they were using the railway.

The study, funded by CP and Parks Canada, found that enough grain is spilled along the tracks to fill about 1-1/2 hopper cars a year.

That's enough to feed about 50 bears, said Colleen Cassidy St. Clair, the University of Alberta biologist who directed the study.

"In bear terms, that's significant," she said.

But she added that the grain isn't as big a problem as previously thought.

Bears also munch on plants such as buffalo berries, many of which do well in the cleared, sunny stretches along a rail line.

"They're more abundant there, they're more productive there and they mature earlier there," said St. Clair.

St. Clair added that railroad grades also connect different patches of good bear grazing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HOMICIDE

Shooting victim IDed

A man left at a downtown urgent care clinic with a gunshot wound to the head has been identified following an autopsy on Tuesday.

The Calgary Police Service Homicide Unit is investigating the death of Itzel Baatarsuren, 22, who died from his injuries in hospital after being dropped off at the Sheldon Chumir Health Centre on Monday night.

The driver of a white Pontiac G5 fled after dropping Baatarsuren off, police say.

Shortly after Baatarsuren was dropped off, police stopped what they believe was the same vehicle on 17 Avenue SW. A man was taken into custody for questioning but has since been released. Police say his involvement in the incident is unknown.

Calgary police are looking for witnesses who may have seen the Pontiac near the 900 block of 36 Street NE between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23.

Police believe the shooting might have occurred in a parking lot in that area prior to 9 p.m.

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Mother finds new passion in lingerie fighting league

SPORTS

Danielle 'Cow Belle' St. Pierre represents the city in the LFC

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Danielle St. Pierre is a full-time mom, hard-working real-estate agent and occasional globe-trotting ass-kicker who fights exclusively in her underwear.

St. Pierre is "Cow Belle," Calgary's representative in the Lingerie Fighting Championships.

She was drafted into the LFC last year, thanks to her good looks, charm and extensive martial arts training, which includes Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Mixed Martial Arts, Filipino Stick Fighting, Judo and most recently a bit of Muay Thai.

The ladies of the LFC are all pretty well trained; just because a butt is in underwear doesn't make that butt any easier to kick. St. Pierre travelled to California for her first fight in June last year.

Cage Match

"I thought I would be super nervous. I'd never been in a cage fight before. I'd never done any grappling tournaments or anything," she recalled.

Although she'd always taken part in sports, St. Pierre was always a self-conscious teenager.

"But when I was waiting in the dressing room, I got excited. I was so pumped, getting out there, it's so loud, everyone is cheering. You feed off that."

Shaun Donnelly, LFC founder, said St. Pierre quickly proved herself to be an adaptable fighter, despite losing her first match.

"She's very easy to work with, having a great attitude and a very positive outlook that rubs off," he said. From there, St. Pierre's fascination with the sport was anything but brief.

Avoiding Wardrobe Malfunctions

But just because she's excited doesn't mean she doesn't take precautions. This is lingerie fighting after all, and cheeky wardrobe malfunctions aren't uncommon.

"This is an old dance trick I used to use; you use hairspray to help your costume stick," she laughed. "Be as cautious as you can, but you can only be so cautious when you're fighting."

Because many of the fighters also work as models, they generally avoid hitting each other in the face. But they still fight hard, and they're still in it to win. And often their families are cheering them on.

Support

St. Pierre was surprised she wasn't the only fighter with kids. In fact, about half the LFC fighters are moms.

"It makes it really cool, because you get to know them and know about their families," she smiled. "It's really neat that we're all empowered to do this, even though we have kids."

St. Pierre's husband is very supportive, being an MMA fighter himself, and she said it's a great way to stay physically active and build up the energy to keep up with her kids.

"We motivate each other to do it. My son has never watched my fights, but he knows I fight, and he thinks it's the coolest thing in the world. He recently started Jiu-Jitsu himself."

Danielle St. Pierre, right, is a trained mixed-martial artist who finds the Lingerie Fighting Championships empowering. She next enters the ring for a Miami showdown in March. Inset: St. Pierre attends an LFC promotional event. CONTRIBUTED

UNION

Police association votes to keep Kaminski as leader

Elizabeth Cameron
For Metro | Calgary

The president of the Calgary Police Association (CPA), Sgt. Les Kaminski, is keeping his post.

Last week, Kaminski was charged with one count of assault with a weapon and one count of perjury after an investigation by the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) into the arrest of Jason Arkinstall in 2008.

The allegations have not been proven in court.

An email signed by the CPA's board of directors and obtained by Metro said 1,573 of the approximately 2,200 members of the association voted in a recent poll by the union, most of them in support of their recently-elected president keeping his post.

Mike Lomore, vice-president of the CPA, said he wasn't surprised.

"He took a vast majority when he was elected only a few months ago," said Lomore.

The email states "the CPA recognizes that not all members will agree with the outcome of this poll," and adds future efforts will focus on reunification of the membership.

> **He took a vast majority when he was elected only a few months ago.**
> Mike Lomore

Lomore declined to comment on what those efforts might be, citing the fact that the CPA is a private organization.

Former CPA president Howard Burns agreed, but said it's a complicated situation.

"It's not a public entity so there is no obligation to share association business. However, there is an overlap with policing — which the public does have a right to know about," Burns said.

"Ultimately it's the call of the people who are the elected representatives today."

"Although there are factions out there that would like to see us fractured, it is imperative that from here forward, we work towards protecting our membership's best interests," the email reads.

Lomore declined to comment on the so-called factions.

The Calgary Police Service previously admitted it should have conducted a formal investigation into the arrest of Arkinstall when his trial concluded in 2011.

COURT

Vader gets life in prison

Bret McCann and his family got up in the middle of the night half a world away to watch a live video feed of a judge handing a life sentence to the man who killed McCann's parents.

Travis Vader was facing anywhere from time served to life in prison for manslaughter in the deaths of Lyle and Marie McCann. The couple were in their late 70s when they vanished after leaving their home in St. Albert, north of Edmonton, for a camping trip to British Columbia in July 2010. Their bodies have never been found.

"When the judge said life imprisonment, it was a huge relief," Bret McCann said Wednesday on a video link from Melbourne, Australia.

Court of Queen's Bench Justice Denny Thomas determined at trial that Vader was a desperate drug addict who was already on the run from police when he came across the couple in their motorhome and killed them.

In his written sentencing decision, Thomas described the 44-year-old as a smart, dangerous man who didn't care who his victims were. Vader may not have intended to kill the vulnerable seniors, said Thomas, but he used a loaded gun to rob them before burning their motorhome and disposing of their bodies in the wilderness.

"The randomness of these homicides is terrifying for all Canadians," he wrote. "This sort of killing ... cries out for denunciation and deterrence."

Thomas ruled Vader won't be eligible for parole for seven years, which is automatic when someone is sentenced to life for manslaughter. Parole ineligibility periods start at the time of arrest so Vader will be able to apply in about 4-1/2 years, said Bret McCann.

"And if he does, I am going to be there and I am going to ask him, 'Where are the bodies of my parents?' " said McCann.

Vader's lawyer, Brian Beresh, said outside court that his client "was not pleased."

"As he said in court, he will fight to his last day to prove he is innocent. We intend to launch that fight, probably this week, by filing a notice of appeal."

Prosecutor Ashley Finlayson said the Crown had the option of requesting Vader's parole ineligibility be increased to 10 years but chose not to.

"A life sentence is a life sentence," Finlayson said. "We're confident that the parole board will deal with everything appropriately." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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HEALTH CARE

Indigenous people face challenges accessing care

An early cancer diagnosis can save your life, but many indigenous people in Canada face challenges simply getting to a doctor.

A recent report assessed care for Indigenous people in Alberta and found the survival rate of those with cancer is 53 per cent, significantly lower than non-Indigenous patients.

"We know there's a disproportionate number of Indigenous individuals with cancer in Canada," said Pam Tobin, director of the First Nations Indigenous Métis Cancer Control Strategy (FNIMCCS) with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC).

A two-day forum in Calgary this week is looking at how to improve access to treatment for indigenous people with cancer.

"The cancer journey itself is complex for anybody," Tobin said. "It's more complex for the indigenous population because many live in rural, remote, or isolated communities, so it's not easy to access treatment or care."

Indigenous individuals aren't regularly screened for cancer, which Tobin attributes to poor access to diagnostic facilities and a mistrust of the health-care system.

Pam Tobin
METRO

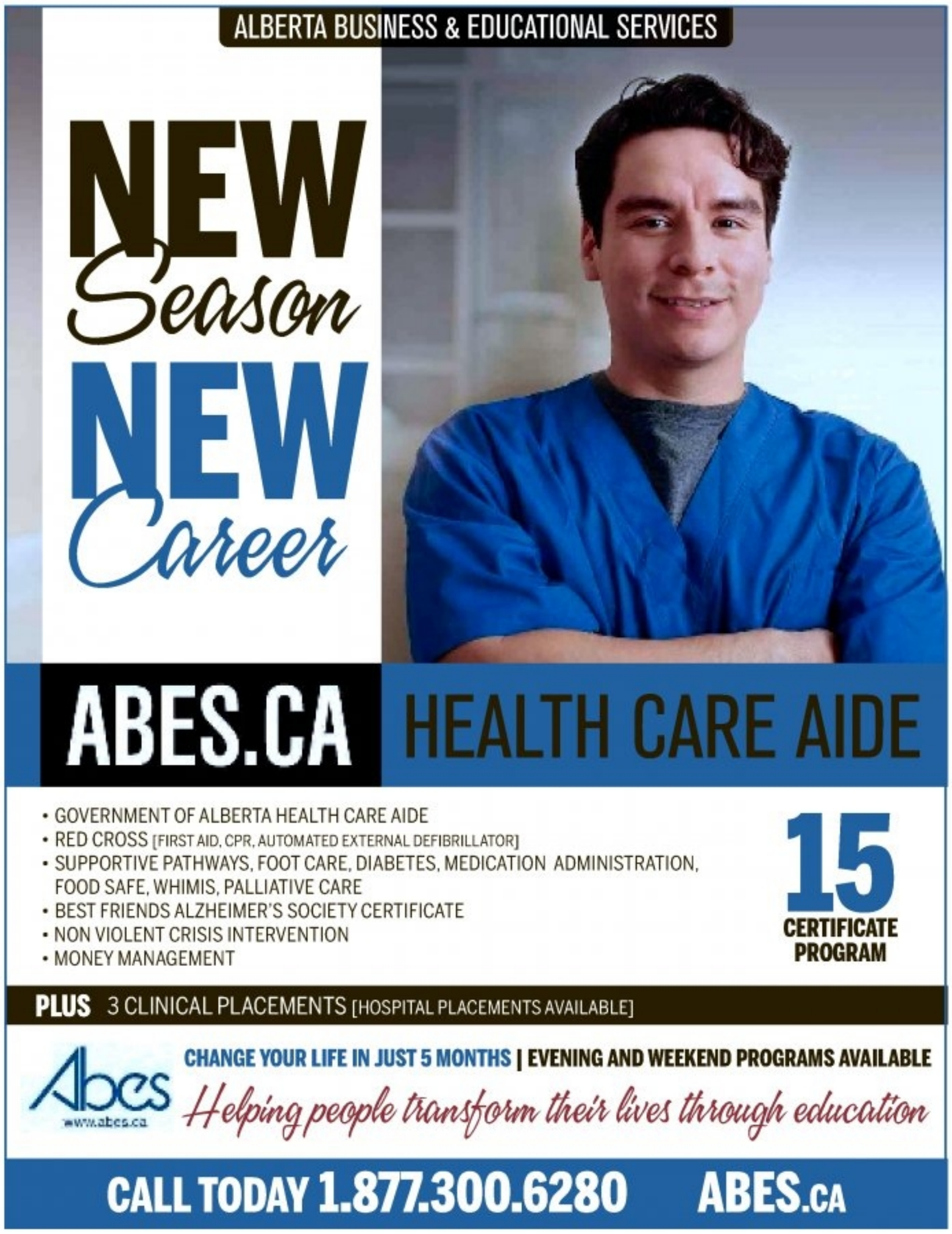
"Within Canada, you can travel up to 29 hours from our most rural and remote Inuit communities to access a facility where you could be diagnosed," Tobin said.

As a result, people are getting diagnosed at a later stage, resulting in a poorer prognosis.

Another challenge is the lack of access to culturally appropriate care. Tobin said patients sometimes feel their worldview and cultural practices are not respected during treatment.

"It's about acknowledging and respecting that some people may be using traditional medicine as well," she said.

ELIZABETH CAMERON/FOR METRO



Dr. Carolyn Bennett, federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, joined **Elder Miiksika'am (Clarence Wolfleg)** in Mount Royal University's new tipi for a ceremonial blessing.
JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Tipi designed to welcome everyone

CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Honorary ceremony held at Mount Royal University

Elizabeth Cameron
For Metro | Calgary

Everyone is welcome inside Mount Royal University's (MRU) tipi, which was blessed in a traditional ceremony on Wednesday.

John Fischer, director of the Iniskim Centre at MRU, said the Blackfoot-style tipi is a symbol that Indigenous education is becoming an integral part of the university, located on Treaty 7 territory — the homelands of the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) Nations, the T'suut'ina Nation and the Nakoda Nation.

"We're enhancing our knowledge and other people's knowledge about the tipi and our culture," Fischer said.

"A tipi means many things, but to us, it teaches us about the strength of our people, about our relationship to our universe, and it's a symbol of our home," he said.

The federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett was there to witness the blessing.

Clarence Wolfleg, also known as Elder Miiksika'am, performed a smudging ceremony and gifted Bennett with a Blackfoot name.

"A name gifting is a symbolic honouring," Fischer explained.

"This is about self-esteem, resilience and really about what the first peoples have to teach Canada," Bennett said at the ceremony.

"This is a day none of us will forget," she added.

Many First Nation cultures across Canada have teachings about the tipi — the direction it faces, how it's painted, and the way it's put up all hold significance.

> **To us, it teaches us about the strength of our people.**
> John Fischer

Fischer said the structure has been a popular locale already.

"People use it in the day just to sit in, or they take selfies outside of it," he said.

The tipi will eventually be traditionally painted with traditional designs and colours, as directed by local Elders.

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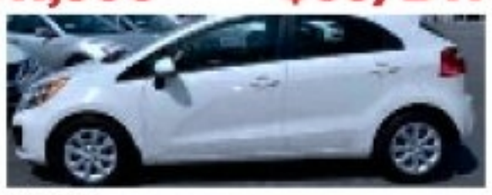

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The Power to Surprise

Illuminasia cancelled

LANTERN DISPLAY

Calgary Zoo failed to make a profit in past two years

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

The Calgary Zoo is blaming the current poor economy for its decision to cancel Illuminasia after a two-year run.

The event featured elaborate Chinese lantern displays around the zoo grounds after regular hours. Visitors had to buy tickets separate from regular admission to see the show.

Zoo spokesman Lindsey Galloway said the zoo failed to realize a profit in either year. About 60,000 people came through the gates in 2015, while that number dropped to 41,000 last year.

"We were hoping it would be an annual event but that didn't work out," he said.

Galloway said the festival had a large upfront cost because the lanterns had to be imported from China. The zoo also brought in 12 artists from China during the summer to start assembling the lanterns and setting up for the show.

The zoo hired a local business — Hanart Culture — to organize the display.

Company owner George Zhao said he had hoped the show would have continued on for a longer period of time but realized the economy wasn't that strong this year.

Zhao was wrapping up a lantern show not far from Washington, D.C., when Metro reached him.

Galloway said this year's sponsor — Sinopec Canada — didn't pull out its funding. They sponsor the zoo in many ways and they will discuss how to reallocate those funds.

Although he couldn't talk specifics, Galloway said they didn't lose a lot of money, but even a break-even scenario wouldn't have been good enough.

"We're not in the festival business, we're in the zoo business," said Galloway.

"The objective here as a charity is that we wanted this festival to generate revenue that we could invest into conservation."

The Calgary Zoo's Chinese lantern festival featured elaborate displays that looked like plants and animals, as well as a live stage show. COURTESY CALGARY ZOO

LUNCHBOX THEATRE

Bellamy steps down as artistic producer

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Mark Bellamy, artistic producer for three seasons at Lunchbox Theatre, is stepping down from his post, and returning to his first love: Performing.

"I've been running theatres for the past 17 years, and now I'm taking a little time off to recharge my batteries and hopefully do some more work on stage as an actor – and some freelance directing. Just, not be in charge of anything for a while," he said.

Bellamy will officially leave at the end of the current season, in July. He has no regrets about it, either.

Bellamy was originally brought on board when Lunchbox was in the midst of a crisis — the artistic producer and general manager suddenly stepped aside, and he was brought in to deal with the turmoil.

Not satisfied with simply bringing things back to the status quo, Bellamy made it his mission to stretch and grow the audience, and test the limits for what he could put on the Lunchbox stage.

"I feel like I've done that, that's one of the reasons I think it's a good time for me to step aside and let someone else continue the next step of the journey," he said.

Personal standouts include the Christmas production of Epiphany and Meredith Taylor-Parry's Book Club.

Now Bellamy will take part in his passion in a different way. He promises he'll still be around Lunchbox and the Calgary theatre community — and audiences will actually be seeing his face a lot more now.

Mark Bellamy was artistic producer for three seasons. COURTESY LUNCHBOX

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A new citizen was sworn in at a ceremony in Toronto on April 24, 2014. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Immigration on the rise

RESEARCH

One in three people could be immigrants in 20 years

A new Statistics Canada survey says almost half the country's population could be an immigrant or the child of an immigrant within the next 20 years.

It suggests the proportion of immigrants in Canada's population could reach 30 per cent in 2036 — compared to 20.7 per cent in 2011 — and a further 20 per cent of the population would be the child of an immigrant, up from the 17.5 per cent recorded in 2011.

The numbers released Wednesday are a far cry from the country's first census of the population in 1871 — four years after Confederation —when 16.1 per cent of the 3.7 million people in Canada were born abroad, with Britain, the United States and Germany as the most likely countries of origin.

The population projections show immigration will alter the country's cultural landscape under all scenarios Statistics Canada explored as part of an ongoing project to map out Canada's future as the nation turns 150 years old.

In Quebec, the percentage of people who claim French as their mother tongue is expected to drop to between 69 and 72 per cent in 2036, down from 79 per cent in 2011.

Up to 30 per cent of Canadians in 2036 could have a mother tongue that is neither English nor French, a potential jump of 10 points from 2011.

Researchers concluded more than half of the country's immigrants will be of Asian origin within the next two decades, with a corresponding decline in the number of European immigrants.

Visible minority populations would make up a growing percentage of the working age population, defined as people between the ages of 15 and 64, potentially doubling their share to 40 per cent of the age cohort, up from the almost 20 per in 2011.

The projections also suggest that by 2036, between 13 and 16 per cent of the population would be people from a non-Christian religion, up from the nine per cent recorded in 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BY THE NUMBERS NEWCOMERS

30 Proportion of immigrants in Canada could reach 30 per cent in 2036.	**20** Per cent of the population in 2036 that could be children of immigrants.
50 Researchers say more than 50 per cent of immigrants will be of Asian origin.	**16.1** Per cent of the 3.7 million people in Canada born abroad in 1871.

KINDER MORGAN PIPELINE

First Nation will defend its water

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

A small First Nation in B.C.'s Interior has warned Ottawa it won't let its drinking water supply be risked without a fight, potentially even a Standing Rock-like standoff, its chief said.

And according to a joint federal-provincial letter, Ottawa acknowledged the risk to Coldwater band's aquifer from Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline — just one day before approving it in November.

"These guys have a good case," said the band's lawyer Matthew Kirchner. "We know there's a real threat."

Addressing the aquifer issue is one of the conditions of the Crown's project approval.

CPP hard to understand, say reports

Internal evaluations of the Canada Pension Plan show the system is poorly understood by most — a problem retiree Evan Brett avoided only through luck and meticulous record keeping.

The realtor and his wife Latifah dove into their files a decade ago when Latifah applied for retirement benefits. The documents they happened to have ensured they were able to maximize the benefits they get today. Brett said he knew enough about the CPP to avoid problems. But he is sure others aren't well-versed.

Evaluations drawing from workers, retirees and Service Canada officials show Canadians are confused about what they need when applying for benefits, have a hard time understanding info on websites and don't fully understand the program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Federal buildings in capital crumbling

Adam Kveton
For Metro | Ottawa

Nearly 18 per cent of federally owned buildings in Ottawa are in critical or poor condition.

That's according to the federal government's own list of its buildings, the Directory of Federal Real Property. Of more than 1,700 buildings, 104 are in critical condition, while more than 200 are in poor condition.

These include office spaces and residences, as well as things like barns, sheds and silos.

For a building to be in "critical condition," the investment needed to bring it back up to scratch is estimated to be greater than 30 per cent of its replacement value, according to the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.

Some critical buildings include the former Bank of Canada building, the RCMP headquarters, the Supreme Court, several Central Experimental Farm buildings and the Sir Charles Tupper Building.

"Risk of building and building systems failure is high," reads another part of the treasury board's definition of critical.

> "Government efforts to realize savings have constrained annual maintenance.
> Nicolas Boucher

For "poor" buildings, "some or all asset systems are compromised or show serious signs of deterioration. Risk of some systems failure is likely," and the investment needed is between 10 to 30 per cent of replacement value.

The government's real property manager, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), said that the growing number of critical-condition buildings is due to both age and a lack of funds.

With the government investing $3.4 billion over five years, the PSPC has been able to implement "major renovations in many of its critical assets," said spokesperson Nicolas Boucher.

There will be decades of construction on the buildings of Parliament Hill. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

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AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Sexist posts on women's marches backfire

A school board member in Hillary Clinton's hometown resigned after making a derogatory reference on Twitter to the female anatomy in describing women marching against President Donald Trump. An Illinois teacher was pulled from the classroom for a tweet deemed sexist. And a freshman Indiana lawmaker was inundated with criticism over a Facebook post mocking "fat women."

These are a handful of examples from across the U.S. of mostly male public officials who have been reprimanded, called out or disciplined over social media postings about the women's marches around the globe last weekend.

The rash of incidents highlight how nasty political discourse has become since the divisive presidential election. But in an era when Trump made lashing out against "political correctness" central to his appeal, the consequences these officials face for unfiltered use of social media once again demonstrate that what you say on the Internet still can hurt you.

It's also not strictly a partisan issue. A writer for Saturday Night Live was suspended this week after writing an offensive tweet about Trump's 10-year-old son Barron.

Still, the number of incidents following the women's marches, which packed public squares in blue states and some red as well, has put a few elected officials and supervisors in an awkward spot. And it's not clear where to draw the line. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAY 6 DONALD TRUMP'S ADMINISTRATION

President Donald Trump began rolling out measures on immigration Wednesday. Here is a look at some of his plans and the difficulties he may encounter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Donald Trump displays an executive order he signed during a visit to the Department of Homeland Security. GETTY IMAGES

1 BORDER WALL

Trump directed the Homeland Security Department to start building a wall at the Mexican border. A 2006 law gives Trump the authority to proceed with construction, but he will need billions of dollars from Congress. He says Mexico will ultimately pay for the wall, but Mexico insists it won't. Environmental groups and some landowners will likely try to block the plan.

2 SANCTUARY CITIES

Trump announced a crackdown on cities that don't co-operate with federal immigration authorities, pledging to strip them of federal grant money. But the administration may face legal challenges to any efforts to force co-operation. Some federal courts have found that local jurisdictions cannot hold immigrants beyond their jail term or deny them bond based on a request from immigration authorities.

3 VISA RESTRICTIONS

Trump says he will suspend the issuance of U.S. visas in countries where adequate screening cannot occur and suspend immigrant and non-immigrant entry for citizens of countries of particular concern for 30 days. Federal law gives Trump broad authority to suspend immigration for groups of people whose entry is "detrimental to U.S. interests." He is expected to suspend any immigration, including for refugees, from Syria.

4 REFUGEE RESTRICTIONS

Trump is proposing to reduce the maximum number of refugees by more than half, to 50,000, for the budget year ending in September. Trump has the authority to set the limit of how many refugees can be admitted annually. He can also suspend refugee processing. Refugee processing was temporarily suspended under President George W. Bush in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

5 EPA SCIENCE SCRUTINIZED

The Trump administration is scrutinizing studies published by scientists at the Environmental Protection Agency, and new work is under a "temporary hold." The communications director for Trump's transition team at EPA, Doug Ericksen, said the review extends to all content on the agency's website, including details of scientific evidence showing that the Earth's climate is warming and man-made carbon emissions are to blame.

6 INTERVENTION IN CHICAGO

Tuesday night, Trump declared he was ready to "send in the Feds" if Chicago can't reduce its homicides. But Mayor Rahm Emanuel warned against deploying the National Guard, saying it would hurt efforts to restore trust in the police. Trump gave no details on what kind of federal intervention he was suggesting, but Emanuel cautioned that using the military could make matters worse.

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Grand Master of the Knights of Malta Matthew Festing resigned Wednesday in a bitter dispute with Pope Francis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Pope taking over Knights

RELIGION

End of order's sovereignty sparked by condom tiff

Pope Francis on Wednesday seized control of the Knights of Malta, and action that amounts to one sovereign country annexing another.

Here's what led to the takeover and what it means.

WHO ARE THEY?

The Knights of Malta is an ancient lay Catholic religious order that runs hospitals and clinics around the world. It counts 3,500 members and 100,000 staff and volunteers who lend first aid in war zones, natural disasters and conflict areas; members also make regular pilgrimages bringing the sick to Catholic shrines.

They trace their history to the 11th-century Crusades and are known for the aristocratic lineage of their members, their fancy, fringed uniforms, and the big Maltese cross that adorns their liturgical robes.

WHAT'S BEHIND THE DISPUTE?

The headline-grabbing issue that prompted the takeover involves condoms: Several years ago, the order learned that its charity branch Malteser International was involved in aid programs that were distributing thousands of condoms in Myanmar.

The order's health minister at the time, Albrecht von Boeselager, stopped two of the three programs immediately and the third after the Vatican intervened. Boeselager went on to be elected grand chancellor.

The Knights' leader, Matthew Festing, asked Boeselager to resign Dec. 6. Boeselager refused, and Festing opened a disciplinary process against him and suspended him. The two were known to not get along, and the order, like many private clubs, has factions along national and ideological lines.

Festing's camp says Boeselager's refusal to obey the resignation order was "disgraceful" given Festing is the religious superior. Boeselager says Festing offered no valid reason for him to resign, and that he was therefore under no obligation to obey.

ENTER THE POPE

The Vatican announced Dec. 22 that Francis had named a five-member commission to investigate Boeselager's ouster. The Knights refused to co-operate, citing their sovereignty and insisting that the pope had no business interfering since the removal of Boeselager was an act of internal governance. The Vatican doubled down. On Wednesday, the Vatican announced that Festing had resigned and that a papal delegate would be named to run the order.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

The showdown has unfolded against the backdrop of Francis' increasing clashes with more conservative elements in the church, especially those for whom sexual ethics and doctrinal orthodoxy are paramount.

It once again pitted Francis against Cardinal Raymond Burke, a leading conservative and critic of Francis and one of four cardinals who have publicly called for the Pope to clarify his position on the divisive moral issue of whether civilly remarried Catholics can receive Communion.

On a more personal level, Francis has made clear he loathes the aristocratic pomp that the Knights relish.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLITICS

Gambia's president finally coming home

Gambia's new president finally comes home on Thursday, a week after taking the oath of office outside the country during a whirlwind political crisis that sent the tiny nation's longtime leader into exile.

President Adama Barrow is set to arrive from neighbouring Senegal, where he has waited out the chaos for his safety, a spokesman for the coalition backing him confirmed.

Gambians eagerly await Barrow, who has promised to reverse many of the actions taken by former leader Yahya Jammeh. Barrow defeated Jammeh in December elections that the ruling party challenged.

Jammeh finally left the country over the weekend, ending a more than 22-year rule. He has been accused of leading a government that suppressed opponents with detentions, beatings and killings.

A West African regional military force that was poised to oust Jammeh if diplomatic talks failed has been securing Gambia for Barrow's arrival.

Barrow has requested that the regional force remain in Gambia for six months, but it is unclear whether heads of state with the regional bloc, known as ECOWAS, will approve a deployment for that long.

The new president has been busy this week forming his Cabinet and has named a woman, Fatoumata Tabajang, as vice-president. She has vowed to seek prosecution for Jammeh, who flew with family and aides to Equatorial Guinea.

On Tuesday, Gambia's lawmakers lifted the country's state of emergency and revoked a three-month extension of Jammeh's term, as the new government began dismantling his final attempts to cling to power.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liberals pinning hopes on artificial intelligence

ECONOMY

Technology seen as a path to reverse stalled growth

They see it as a way of saying "Hasta la vista, baby" to years of sluggish economic growth.

The federal Liberals are expected to use the upcoming federal budget to foster the development of cutting-edge artificial intelligence in the hope it will be a springboard to attracting investment and creating a highly skilled new sector of jobs.

Economic Development Minister Navdeep Bains says fostering AI is one of the pillars of the government's economic growth strategy.

He and others see an opportunity for Canada to exploit its competitive advantage in a technology that is becoming ubiquitous across all sectors — from major companies such as Google or Microsoft to the banking and automotive sectors.

Economic Development Minister Navdeep Bains says AI is one of the pillars of the feds' growth strategy. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The government's vision of AI-enabled growth is not rooted in the apocalyptic science fiction of Terminator movies where robots destroy humanity (Arnold Schwarzenegger appropriated the Spanish phrase "Hasta la vista, baby" in Terminator 2: Judgement Day before sparking some spectacular explosions).

Instead, Bains and others point to two Canadian "pioneers" in AI — Geoff Hinton at the University of Toronto and Montreal computer scientist Yoshua Bengio. They are recognized world leaders in "deep learning" or "machine learning" — advanced algorithms that allow powerful new super computers to essentially think like humans.

The minister is also buoyed by signs of foreign capital coming to Canada such as Microsoft's recent acquisition of the artificial intelligence startup, Maluuba, based in Waterloo, Ont., and Montreal. In a recent conversation with Bill Gates, Bains said the Microsoft co-founder acknowledged that Canada was playing "a leadership role" in AI.

"We want to encourage those kinds of investments to continue, to connect with each other on a national level," said Bains. "If companies are betting on AI, academic institutions are betting on AI, why can't government be a meaningful partner in this area as well?"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PARCEL DELIVERIES EARTHBOUND ROBOTS TESTED
Lawmakers in the U.S. have partnered with European company Starship Technologies to allow American cities to join others across Europe testing earthbound rolling robots to deliver sandwiches, groceries or packages. Much like attempts at airborne drone deliveries, Starship aims to revolutionize the way people get their parcels. Representatives from the company visited Richmond, Va., on Wednesday for a demonstration. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook takes aim at fake news

Facebook is updating its "trending" feature that highlights hot topics on its social networking site, part of its effort to root out the kind of fake news stories that critics contend helped Donald Trump become president.

With the changes announced Wednesday, Facebook's trending list will consist of topics being covered by several publishers. Before, it focused on subjects drawing the biggest crowds of people sharing or commenting on posts.

The switch is intended to make Facebook a more credible source of information by steering hordes of its 1.8 billion users toward topics that "reflect real world events being covered by multiple outlets," Will Cathcart, the company's vice-president of product management, said in a blog post.

Facebook also will stop customizing trending lists to cater to each user's personal interests. Instead, everyone located in the same region will see the same trending lists, which currently appear in the U.S., U.K., Canada, Australia and India.

That change could widen the scope of information Facebook's users see, instead of just topics that reinforce what they may have already heard or read elsewhere. The broader perspective might reduce the chances of Facebook's users living in a "filter bubble" — only engaging with people and ideas with which they agree.

Facebook introduced its trending list in 2014 in response to the popularity of a similar feature on Twitter, the short-messaging service that competes for people's attention and advertising revenue.

Questions about Facebook's influence on what people are reading intensified last summer after a technology blog relying on an anonymous source reported that human editors routinely suppressed conservative viewpoints on the site.

Facebook fired the small group of journalists overseeing its trending items and replaced them with an algorithm that was supposed to be a more neutral judge about what to put on the list.

But the automated approach began to pick out posts that were getting the most attention, even if the information in them was bogus.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Carbon tax won't hurt Saskatchewan: Trudeau

Saskatchewan shouldn't be adversely affected by the federal government's proposed carbon levy, despite heavy criticism from the premier and industry groups, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Wednesday.

Speaking in Saskatoon, Trudeau said people in the province will benefit from pipeline projects that his government has just approved. Businessmen, farmers and rural politicians have sent a letter to Trudeau saying his plan to charge $10 per tonne of carbon starting in 2018 — increasing to $50 by 2022 — will hurt the provincial economy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Government identifies leaking pipeline

The Saskatchewan government says it has confirmed which pipeline leaked 200,000 litres of crude oil on First Nation farmland. It says it belongs to Calgary-based Tundra Energy Marketing. The company has been leading cleanup of the spill near Stoughton in southeastern Saskatchewan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, January 26, 2017

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON ELECTORAL REFORM

What is certain is that the consultation reinforced neither the prime minister's preferred option nor the notion that he has the social licence to act unilaterally and impose a system of his own choosing.

With every new development on the electoral reform front the disconnect between Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's words on the promised introduction of a new voting system and his government's actions is more glaring.

Such was again the case this week as the government reported on the public response to the online consultation it held over the holiday season.

The discretion that attended the release was inversely proportional to the fanfare that had attended the launch of the exercise last month. It failed to inspire a 140-character tweet to flag its existence from Karina Gould, the incoming minister of democratic institutions.

That may be because a mountain predictably gave birth to a mouse. Although an invitation to participate in the consultation was mailed to every household, less than 3 per cent — or about 400,000 people — answered the call.

Or it may be because the answers were not the ones Trudeau was hoping for.

Despite the obvious limitations of the exercise, the result did offer some insights a government looking to craft a consensual narrative on a new voting system could use.

For instance, almost three quarters of respondents agreed that government policies should take into account the input of several parties, even if — as was pointed out in the questionnaire — it might take longer to get things done.

Sixty-eight per cent believed that a majority government should be open to compromise to the point of reconsidering, if need be, some of its policies.

APATHY: CHECK A survey of Canadians' feelings on voting systems revealed we're not on the verge of taking to the streets to demand electoral reform, Chantal Hébert writes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

It is not hard to find between the lines of those answers a healthy dose of skepticism towards the false majorities that the first-past-the-post system produces or the winner-take-all attitude that often results from them. There seems to be a significant market for a less adversarial more constructive modus vivendi between the government and the opposition parties.

Neither of the above made the list of key findings of the executive summary. One had to dig into the report to find them.

In their wisdom its authors chose instead to give pride of place to the response to what may have been one of the least illuminating questions in the consultation, i.e. the relative satisfaction of a majority of respondents with the state of Canada's democracy.

For the record, by far the largest group — 50 per cent — was only somewhat satisfied.

On its face, that finding is too generic to draw a conclusion other than that Canadians are not on the verge of taking to the streets to change the voting system.

But based on the strength of the support for a more collaborative governance process, it is possible to infer that the satisfaction of a good many respondents might be less qualified under a system liable to force more co-operation on the various parties. Proportional representation fits that particular bill.

It may be that those who filled the questionnaire were those who are most eager to move to a more proportional voting system. Advocates of a reform along those lines did dominate the public hearings held by a parliamentary committee last year. Only a minority favored the ranked ballot that Trudeau is on the record as liking.

What is certain is that the consultation reinforced neither the prime minister's preferred option nor the notion that he has the social licence to act unilaterally and impose a system of his own choosing.

What, if anything, the government will do with those results is anyone's guess.

No one can even say for certain whether the appointment of a new minister of democratic institutions earlier this month was meant to restore some momentum to the file or to recruit fresh hands to bury it.

Chances are Gould does not know herself or at least she did not at the time of her appointment. On the heels of her accession to cabinet, the rookie minister refused to repeat Trudeau's promise that the 2015 election would be the last to be held under the first-past-the-post system.

By all indications, Gould, like her predecessor Maryam Monsef, has not been given anything approaching a free rein with the file. Perhaps she was waiting on an updated mandate letter from the Prime Minister's Office to figure out what her marching orders actually are.

As an aside, absent an ambitious electoral reform project, how does one justify the existence of a stand-alone democratic institutions ministry now that the transition to a more independent Senate is well underway?

Absent an ambitious electoral reform project, how does one justify a stand-alone democratic institutions ministry?

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

Welcome to Dark Riverdale, where Archie goes rogue

David Berry
For Metro

A mother forcing pills on the girl next door. A respectable local businessman with ties to organized crime. A sexpot school teacher carrying on an affair with one of her underage students.

Yes, it's just another day in Riverdale, home of Archie and the gang for 80 years and namesake of a dark and sexy teen murder-mystery that premieres on the CW in the U.S. on Thursday and on Netflix in Canada on Friday.

For people who tend to think of Archie's problems as more of the I-spilled-a-milkshake-on-my-sweater-vest variety, the show will be as surprising as a bolt of lightning from the technicolour-blue cover of a Double Digest. It's the most mainstream iteration of a decade-long attempt to modernize Archie, which has seen the quintessential teenager gradually shed his gee-wilikers roots and step saucer-eyed into a new century.

Most of this work has appeared in Archie Comics themselves, new management having shaken off the idealistic malaise that kept the comic chugging for more than half a century. Archie has gotten married, dealt with the ennui of adulthood, met the first gay person in Riverdale — then died saving him from an assassination attempt. Even his best pal, Jughead, came out as one of the first asexuals openly depicted in mainstream pop culture.

If the obvious motive here is profit — you can only make so much money off things people fondly remember from childhood — the tactics of bringing Archie up-to-date suggest some interesting things about what we'll buy these days. It's not just a makeover that Archie has needed, but a wholesale change of milieu: a simple and idyllic world simply isn't going to fill Pop's Chocklit Shoppe anymore.

Part of why we reject old-line Archie is that it's a vision of how we might like things to be. We know that things were never so simple, that a more complex world has always existed under the bright colours. And yet the new interpretations are still aspirational (see: Archie's brand new abs); it's just now they must sneak under our defences with a nod to uncomfortable realities.

Of course it might just be matter of target audience: it should probably go without saying that Riverdale is being made for a young demographic, one that's in the process of moving from the bleak, unrelenting morass of selfish teenaged anxiety toward the bleak, unrelenting morass of slightly less selfish adult chaos. The thirst for darker stories might not be a cultural shift so much as a generational one.

In which case, one day, soon enough, the kids will get to look back on the time Archie was screwing his teacher in the wake of one his friends being murdered and marvel at how simple it all seemed back then.

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Subversive style

Nichole Jankowski/For Metro

Trends don't happen in a vacuum. What walks down the runway for 2017 is directly influenced not just by the seasons that came before, but also by the economy and political climate.

'80S POWER SUITS

If the popularity of Netflix series Stranger Things wasn't enough of a hint, a look to the runway will tell you that the eighties are back in full force. This trend is best illustrated in the wide shoulders and power suiting prominent in both men's and women's collections — and as seen here on stylist Asena Saribatur during Istanbul Fashion Week.

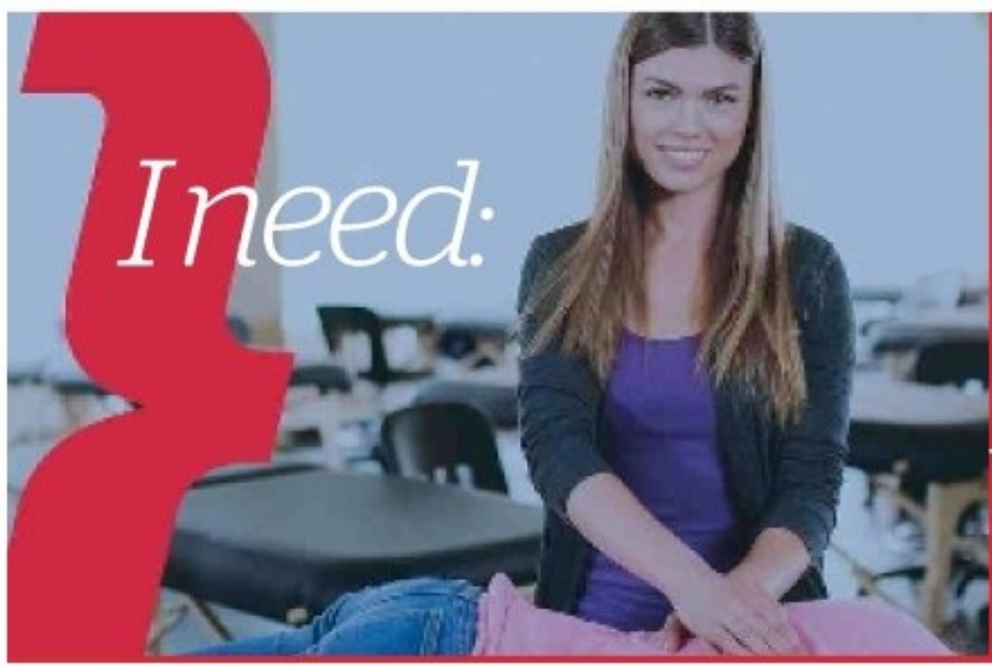
BUY NOTHING AT ALL

Fashion may have a reputation for being elitist, but Georgian designer Demna Gvasalia just handed the power back to the people. For Balenciaga, Gvasalia sent outfits inspired by office workers down a runway of drab commercial carpeting. The populist message was driven home by an altered version of Bernie Sanders' campaign logo on designs. For Vetements (pictured top), 36 looks of stereotypical everyday dress were presented. There was a punk, an emo, a couch potato, a southern gentleman, PTA parents and pensioners. It was a show about identity, diversity and unity. This is the most subversive — and empathetic — menswear trend of 2017: it requires that you purchase nothing at all.

STATEMENT SLEEVES

An emphasis on arms began in streetwear collections a few seasons ago, but those graphic sleeves and stretched-out knits now seem mild in comparison to this year's trend of voluminous leg of mutton, bell and puffed sleeves. Marc Jacobs, Gucci, Saint Laurent, Simone Rocha and Marques Almeida (pictured left, beside DJ Mia Moretti in pink) all showcased these exaggerated silhouettes. Pick a less structured fabric like cotton or a soft knit to make the look more wearable.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



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Uniqlo meets consumer demand for modest-wear

RETAIL

Collection to make its debut in Canada in February

Japanese apparel retailer Uniqlo will debut a line of modest-wear in Canada in February, including hijabs and abayas, the long black dress worn by women in Saudi Arabia, and pieces inspired by the baju kurung, a tunic-and-pants outfit worn widely in South East Asia.

"It's really for everybody, but in terms of a more specific demographic, it's for anyone who sort of wants that more modest aesthetic," said Hana Tajima, the British designer behind the line.

The collection, for spring and summer 2017, will land at Uniqlo's two Canadian stores, at Toronto's Eaton Centre and Yorkdale Mall, on Feb. 24.

"Uniqlo really pays attention to consumer demand and there is a consumer demand for modest-wear and we are happy to oblige," said Kat Adams, Uniqlo spokesperson.

"This is such a diverse market, we are very hopeful that it will receive a positive reaction."

Uniqlo has been selling modest-wear in other markets since 2015 and it's not the only fashion retailer to do so.

Since 2014, designer fashion houses including Dolce & Gabbana and DKNY and fast fashion retailers Zara and Mango have launched modest-wear collections of varying sizes and prices.

> **This is such a diverse market, we are very hopeful that it will receive a positive reaction.**
> Kat Adams

Market research from the advisory firm DinarStandard in 2015 reported that global Muslim consumer spending on food and lifestyle reached $1.8 trillion (U.S.) in 2014 and is projected to reach $2.6 trillion in 2020.

"I think it's brilliant," said Maureen Atkinson, senior partner, research insights, J.C. Williams Global retail advisors.

Designer Hana Tajima, top, displays pieces in her collection of modest-wear: long skirts and pants, tunics, a long black dress with a high neckline, and hijabs. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"I think there is a large enough base that it's a good business decision. I would like to think that most Canadians would support it, but I think there are those who are offended because people don't dress modestly and they are offended because people do dress modestly."

The full Uniqlo modest-wear collection includes 30 items in 81 colours and patterns and will be available across 15 countries. The pieces range in price in Canada from $7.90 for a headband to $39.90 for a hijab and up to $79.90 for a long dress.

The pieces in the spring-summer collection include long skirts and pants and tunics that can be put together like the baju kurung of South East Asia; a long black dress with a high neckline and long sleeves inspired by the Saudi abaya, as well as foundation pieces, like inner hijabs to wear under a hijab or while playing sports, to keep hair in place.

The collection does not include burkas, which cover women from head-to-toe, or niqabs, which cover the face.

"We started in South East Asia, with the local markets there," said Tajima. "From then it's really grown. Each season we brought it to new countries and the response has been really fantastic, not just from the Muslim market."

She said the clothing crosses religious and ethnic lines because it is comfortable, loose-fitting and stylish.

"Really it's about creating pieces that are versatile and allow people to interpret the idea of modesty for themselves," said Tajima, who grew up in a small English village and became a Muslim at the age of 18.

She said it's hard to tell if modest-wear is having an impact on fashion generally.

"There is definitely for me, a sort of trend towards this more androgynous style or looser silhouettes and both are sort of feeding into one another in a way that is really interesting."

Natasha Bakht, associate professor, faculty of law at the University of Ottawa, who is working on a book on the rights of niqab-wearing women, said the idea of modest-wear sold at a fashion retailer shouldn't be controversial.

"It should be celebrated as another marker of diversity in our society," said Bakht. "Frankly, I think it's good business. It's really tapping into a market that many people are recognizing. Fashion and modesty are not mutually exclusive."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Curl up with a good podcast tonight

LITERATURE

Ten of the best book-focused podcasts out there right now

Ryan Porter
For Metro Canada

Tania Gee and Kirt Callahan cohost the book club podcast Write Reads. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tania Gee and Kirt Callahan both cried when Edmonton's Greenwoods' Bookshoppe closed. But four years later, the friends, who met as coworkers at the independent bookshop, have kept their book banter going online, where they host the CanLit book club podcast Write Reads.

Once a month they meet to swap thoughts on a Canadian book, getting personal over pizza. "I think people tend to reveal more about themselves when talking about books than when reviewing any other format," Gee says. "Maybe because of the length of books. It gets into your skin a bit more."

Their audience of literary eavesdroppers is only projected to grow. In 2016, Edison Research found that 21 per cent of people surveyed in the U.S. had listened to a podcast in the previous month, up from 17 per cent in 2015 (equivalent data for Canada is not available).

These listeners have gravitated toward a broad range of titles rather than coalescing around a specific blockbuster, which has created opportunity for niche genres such as literary podcasting to grow. Jeff Vidler of Toronto's Audience Insights Inc. found that even the most popular podcasts such as This American Life and TED Talks were only listened to by 2 per cent of Canadians surveyed.

After four years, Gee is still surprised by the level of enthusiasm people have for Write Reads. "I didn't think there would be that many people into reading Canadian fiction, honestly," she says. "I tell people about it and they get really excited. And I go, 'Really? Oh!' "

It's just one of many book- and writing-focused podcasts that readers are curling up with. These titles are 10 of the best.

KUOW Seattle's Nancy Pearl Book Reviews

The long-standing Seattle librarian (she even has her own action figure) has an enthusiasm and authority that comes through in her reviews for NPR's Morning Edition, collected in short snippets on her local station KUOW's website. **kuow.org/term/nancy-pearl**

The Lit Up

Angela Ledgerwood does a deep dive with authors, exploring such topics as gender equality in India with Anuradha Roy, women and fasting throughout history with Emma Donoghue, the life of Queen Victoria with journalist Julia Baird and racial segregation in South Africa with Trevor Noah. **thelitupshow.com**

Longform

Hot media personalities and non-fiction authors discuss their work, such as modern sex and dating with Future Sex author Emily Witt, the U.S. election with Buzzfeed political writer McKay Coppins and freedom of the press with deposed Gawker editor-in-chief A.J. Daulerio. **longform.org**

Bookworm

Michael Silverblatt's book broadcast has been on the radio since 1989, and his 30-minute sit-downs with major authors have proven to be natural transplants to the podcast form. Jonathan Franzen, Don DeLillo and Ann Patchett are among the Great American Novelists to appear on the program recently. **kcrw.com/news-culture/shows/bookworm**

Write Reads

Gee and Callahan have been co-hosting this Edmonton-based all-Canadian book club since 2012. The Canadian fiction fans are refreshingly unfiltered, even when they're steamrolling CanLit's sacred cows such as Margaret Atwood (a hero, but not for Hagseed) or the dorkiness of Canada Reads (those themes!). **writereads.wordpress.com**

The Guardian Books podcast

The editorial team behind The Guardian's Books section takes a wide survey of the literary universe, from an hour-long sit-down with superstar author Jonathan Safran Foer to a discussion of the dearth of literary writing about climate change. **theguardian.com/books/series/books**

Overdue

Longtime friends Andrew Cunningham and Craig Getting read famous books so you don't have to, from 1984 to White Teeth to a grimace-laden recount of the Fifty Shades trilogy. In addition to more than enough discussion of plot and themes, their banter takes hilarious side-treks. **overduepodcast.com**

New Yorker Fiction Podcast

Famous authors read and rave about their favourite works from the New Yorker's archives for a podcast that's part audiobook, part book club, all gently shepherded by fiction editor Deborah Treisman. As the author reads the story first, the insights that follow are all the more satisfying. **newyorker.com/series/fiction-podcast**

Can't Lit

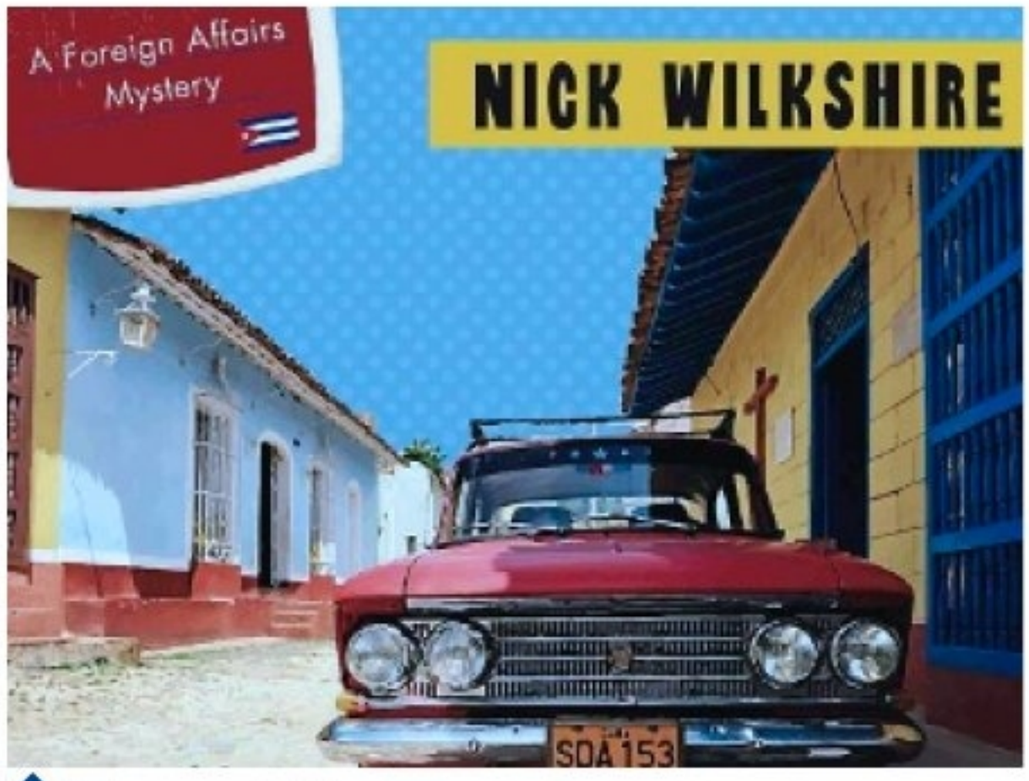
Vancouver's Daniel Zomparelli and Dina Del Bucchia host wandering, wine-fuelled chats with fun and fascinating CanLit personalities such as Giller nominees Anakana Schofield and Zoe Whittall, poet Adèle Barclay and novelist Vivek Shraya. Zomparelli and Del Bucchia bring out a side of the writer that's not on the page. **cantlit.ca**

BBC World Book Club

Not only does the BBC invite the world to join this Book Club focusing on celebrated literary fiction, they often invite the author to join in the discussion. When the work is written by a no-longer-living legend such as Fyodor Dostoyevsky, experts in the field are brought in. **bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003jhsk**

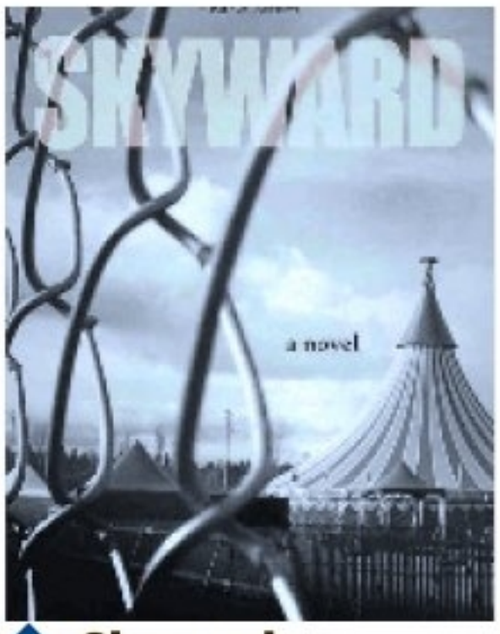
5 GREAT READS FROM INDIE PRESSES

Books from indie presses should be on your to-read list. Many of our finest writers began their careers with small presses, where independent publishers are more open to unconventional approaches. Here are some promising new titles. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



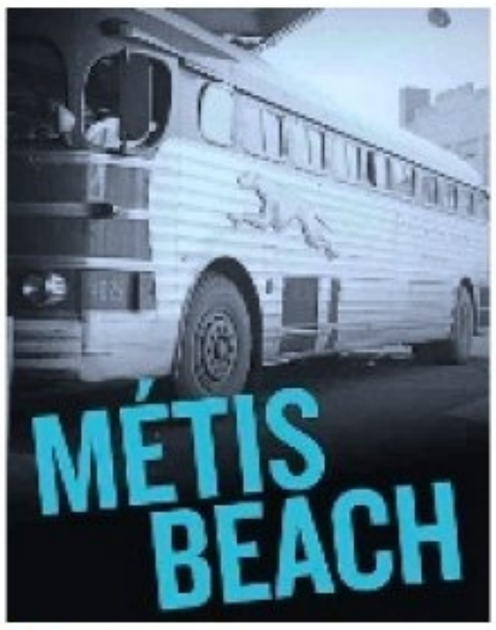
1 Escape to Havana

Dead-ended in his Ottawa job at Foreign Affairs and embarrassed by the circumstances surrounding the end of his marriage, Charlie Hillier happily accepts a posting at the Canadian Embassy in Havana. He soon finds himself mired in dubious goings-on, beginning with the discovery of a brick-sized container of cocaine under the floorboards of his bedroom. **Escape to Havana** is Ottawa writer **Nick Wilkshire**'s fourth novel and the first volume of his Foreign Affairs series. Charlie's second and third postings will be in Moscow and Tokyo.



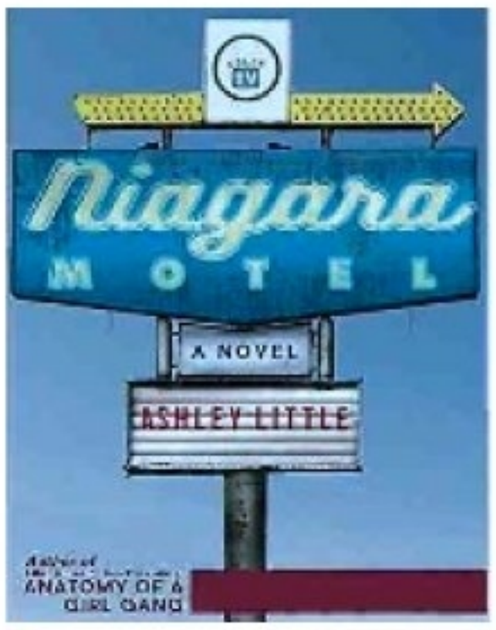
2 Skyward

Three young men have disappeared at the Skyward Fairgrounds, near Gibson, in recent years. Some say they just took off; some figure they were abducted, possibly killed. The plot of **Skyward** unfolds from the perspectives of the police, the suspect and a character we know as The Pursued, who slips the cops early on in a stolen Mercedes. **Philip David Alexander**'s writing is confident, the characters well drawn, the plot intriguing. This is the Burlington writer's fourth novel and his second foray into crime fiction.



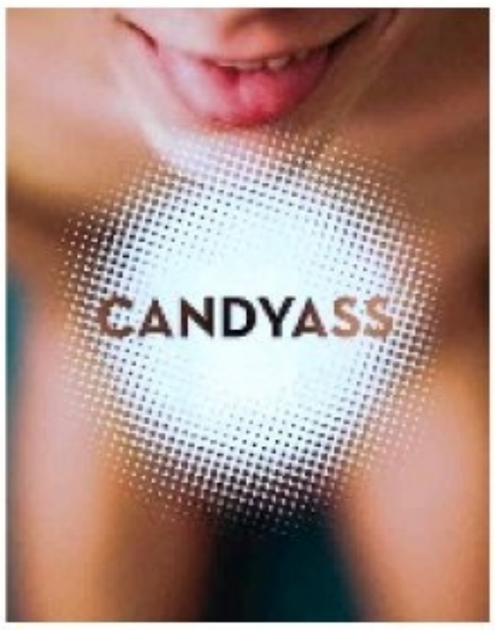
3 Métis Beach

Romain Carrier left his Gaspé village of Métis Beach as a young man in the early 1960s to seek fame and fortune in Los Angeles. Now, three decades later, at age 50, Roman Carr, our "secret Canadian" hero, has won renown with his weekly satire, In Gad We Trust, on American TV. This ambitious chronicle, published in French two years ago, is now available in English from Dundurn. **Claudine Bourbonnais** works for Radio-Canada in Montreal. **Métis Beach** is her first novel.



4 Niagara Motel

From the first sentence — "I was born in a laundromat in Paris, Ontario" — we know that 11-year-old Tucker Malone, the son of an itinerant narcoleptic stripper, is probably a resourceful kid. Sure enough, he has soon left Niagara Falls and embarked on a road trip with a pregnant teen named Meredith. It is the early '90s and their destination is Boston, where Tucker hopes to find the man he believes is his bartender father: Sam Malone, the owner of Cheers. **Niagara Motel** is B.C. writer **Ashley Little**'s fourth novel. Her last, Anatomy of a Girl Gang, was a critical success.



5 Candyass

Arthur is a young gay man in Montreal who faces a common dilemma: finding lasting love in a stable relationship but nevertheless succumbing to the siren call of hookups and clubbing. Over the course of **Candyass** he moves to New York and continues this journey of reconciliation. The great gay writer Edmund White has praised this accomplished first novel by **Nick Comilla** as a "gay Casanova travelogue for the modern age."

INAUGURATION

Michele defends her decision to perform

Singer Chrisette Michele had to turn off her cellphone and stay off the Internet after she accepted an invitation to sing at one of President Donald Trump's inauguration balls.

Despite having performed for then-President Barack Obama in the White House, her decision to perform for his successor led people to call her a sellout; Spike Lee announced that he would no longer have one of her songs, Black Girl Magic, featured on an upcoming television show.

Chrisette Michele.
GETTY IMAGES

But Michele doesn't regret her decision at all.

"We have the opportunity to be in the same room as people who (don't) seem to understand who we are, what we stand for and what we're about? And we're declining?" she told The Associated Press. "Somebody's got to stand up right now, even if it is uncomfortable, so no, there was no hesitation there."

Michele found out on Instagram that Lee would not use her song in his television show. She responded Monday by releasing a spoken word track No Political Genius in which she called herself "the black song Spike Lee won't sing." She said she is now working on a television show of the same name.

Despite the complaints lodged against her, Michele insisted she's the same person she was before her paid appearance at the Freedom Ball.

"Nobody was paying attention to the artist they were supporting over the last 10 years," she said. "They forgot my voice, who I was and what I stood for. They were just upset about where I was standing." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'For after all, how do we know that two and two make four?'

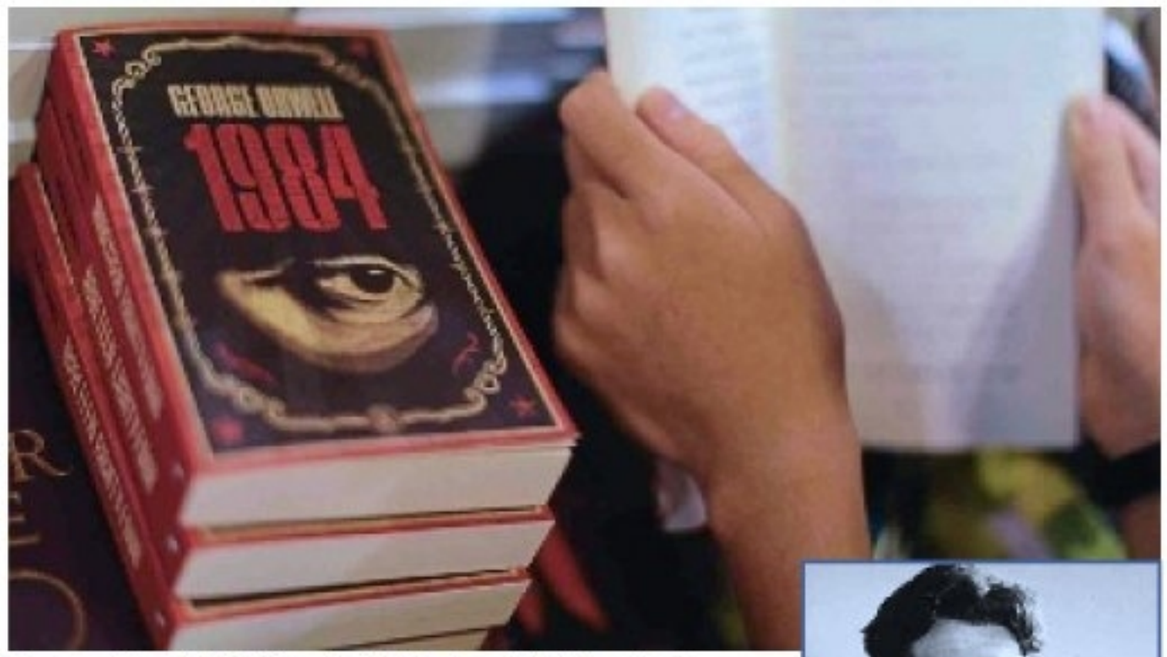
'ALTERNATIVE FACTS'

Trump's denial of crowd size leads to more sales of 1984

After incorrect or unprovable statements made by U.S. President Donald Trump and some White House aides, one truth is undeniable: Sales of George Orwell's 1984 are soaring.

First published in 1949, Orwell's classic dystopian tale of a society in which facts are distorted and suppressed in a cloud of "newspeak" topped the bestseller list of Amazon.com as of Tuesday evening. The sales bump comes after the Trump administration's assertions his inauguration had record attendance and his unfounded allegation that millions of illegal votes were cast against him last fall.

Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway coined an instant catchphrase Sunday when she called his claims about crowd size "alternative facts," bringing comparisons on social media to 1984.



George Orwell (right) wrote 1984, a book that's gained renewed attention since Donald Trump's inauguration, amid a seemingly endless battle over truth and untruth.
GETTY IMAGES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Orwell's book isn't the only cautionary tale on the Amazon list. Sinclair Lewis' 1935 novel about the election of an authoritarian president, It Can't Happen Here, was at No. 46. Aldous Huxley's Brave New World was at No. 71.

Sales also were up for Hannah Arendt's seminal nonfiction analysis The Origins of Totalitarianism. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The newest 'girl' novel to hit the book shelves

NEW RELEASE

The Girl Before inspired by a minimalist London home

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

When JP Delaney's agent showed two top New York editors the first 50 pages of his new psychological thriller, The Girl Before, little did he know the fervour it would cause in the publishing world.

Within a week, the manuscript sold in more than 25 countries (now 35 and counting) at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

"At that stage, the foreign publishers didn't even know what happened on page 51," says Delaney, a not-so-secret pseudonym for Tony Strong, a London advertising copywriter and author of four previous novels.

Within a month, there was an auction for film rights involving four Hollywood studios, all hungry for the next blockbuster Gone Girl or The Girl on the Train.

In the end, it was Universal Pictures that snagged the dark, twisted tale, with Ron Howard signed on to direct.

"Ron Howard expressed a desire to be attached to it. He told me he'd been looking for an unconventional psychological thriller for some time," says Delaney. "He's brilliant with intimate stories about characters who play cat-and-mouse with each other."

Following in the footsteps of those other famous 'Girls,' Delaney's novel features two unreliable narrators whose stories twist and morph over time.

There's Jane, an emotionally wounded woman who lost her baby while in utero. Jane believes she'll find a fresh start and peace of mind moving into One Folgate Street, a sleek, minimalist home designed by a world-renowned architect, Edward Monkford, whose cool, controlling demeanour recalls shades of E.L. James's Christian Grey.

Jane's story alternates with that of Emma's, a previous tenant who moved into Folgate while recovering from a violent attack. When Jane learns that Emma died under suspicious circumstances in the house, she becomes obsessed with the women's life and possible murder.

Delaney — who has always loved books with a house at their core, like Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca — was inspired by a magazine article about a minimalist London home.

"I was immediately struck by just how obsessive and perfectionist an architect would have to be to pursue that kind of aesthetic, where even the tiniest detail could ruin the whole effect," he says.

Intrigued, Delaney began visiting similar residences, although he didn't realize at the time it was the beginnings of a novel.

In The Girl Before, the women fill out rigorous rental applications that include a series of bizarre psychological and ethical questions.

Not only do tenants swear they will keep the home impeccably clean and decluttered in a way that would make Marie Kondo proud, they must also submit to having their behaviour and health monitored by the house's various technological systems.

Folgate slowly transforms from a hub of Zen tranquillity into a malicious presence in the women's lives. Delaney also took tips from old 1950s and '60s movies that tried to predict the future, "but got it all wrong," and purposely made Folgate's systems slightly out-of-date: "The sense that the technology might be unreliable or a bit misguided is partly what makes the house so creepy."

Although the house's control over the women becomes unsettling, Delaney keeps the story's humanity mostly through the journey of Jane, and her grief over the loss of her child.

> "I was immediately struck by just how obsessive and perfectionist an architect would have to be to pursue that kind of aesthetic, where even the tiniest detail could ruin the whole effect.
>
> Author JP Delaney on his inspiration for The Girl before

He says it took him a long time to understand why he was so determined to write this book, and why these characters meant so much him: Delaney realized he was "both attracted to, and repelled by, the whole idea of trying to live a more perfect, beautiful life," and that it connected to his own family story.

Delaney's youngest son is autistic, as well as physically disabled, and his older brother died of sudden infant death syndrome.

"At its core, the story is all about the things that people think they need to fill the holes in their hearts, and the importance of embracing the muddle and mess of human relationships, however imperfect they are," the author observes.

"As one of my characters, Emma, says at one point, decluttering your house won't do anything to clear up the mess inside your own head."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

Gossip DIGEST

MADONNA Singer applies to adopt 2 more children

Pop star Madonna has filed for the adoption of two more children from Malawi.

A government spokesman says the singer appeared before a High Court judge on Wednesday.

Spokesman Mlenga Mvula says it is now up to the court to decide whether to grant the adoption order.

Madonna in 2008 adopted David Banda and a year later adopted Mercy James. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUNO MARS Set to perform at Grammy Awards in February

Bruno Mars will bring his upbeat, funky swag to the Grammys stage.

The Recording Academy announced Wednesday that the singer-songwriter-producer will perform at the Feb. 12 show at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Mars, a four-time Grammy winner, is nominated for album of the year as a co-producer on Adele's comeback effort, 25. He worked on the ballad All I Ask.

Other album of the year nominees include Drake, Justin Bieber, Sturgill Simpson and Beyonce, who is the overall top nominee with nine.

Adele, Carrie Underwood, John Legend and Keith Urban will also perform at the show. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JANE FONDA Romance with Perry halted

Jane Fonda and record producer Richard Perry have split up after eight years together.

Seventy-four-year-old Perry tells E! News their romance has "temporarily been put on the back burner" because of Fonda's rededication to activism. He says the pair remain "extremely good friends."

The 79-year-old Fonda joined marchers in Los Angeles on the weekend as part of a worldwide women's rights protest. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Octavia Spencer, centre, will address the progress of women of colour in Hollywood during the third Makers Conference in Los Angeles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spencer to talk progress at Makers conference

EQUALITY

Touching on women of colour, march with Steinem

Fresh off her second Oscar nomination, Octavia Spencer has signed up to talk with Gloria Steinem about the progress of women of colour in Hollywood and the recent Women's March at an upcoming conference. Spencer is slated to join Steinem for the keynote discussion at the third Makers conference, to be held in Los Angeles on Feb. 6-8. Others slated to attend the event, which will be live-streamed on the site, include Sheryl Sandberg, Diane Von Furstenberg, Gabby Douglas, Debra Messing, Rosie Perez and Eva Longoria.

Spencer, already an Oscar winner for best supporting actress for her role in The Help, received another nod in the same category Tuesday for her depiction of a groundbreaking computer scientist working for NASA in the hit film Hidden Figures.

> **I look forward to listening, talking, learning and making change together.**
> Gloria Steinem

"With the global energy cell of Women's Marches in this country and six continents to push us forward, I'm especially glad for the reality and timing of the Makers Conference this year," Steinem said in a statement. "I look forward to listening, talking, learning, and making change together." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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6	2	5	9	8	4	3	7	1
8	9	7	5	3	1	4	6	2
4	1	3	6	7	2	5	9	8

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Comic icon leaves legacy

Mary Tyler Moore, one of the first sitcom career-woman heroines, has died

Mary Tyler Moore portrayed an independent career woman in the 1970s (above). In 2012, she won the Screen Actors Guild's lifetime achievement award. The actress died Wednesday at the age of 80. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE—THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mary Tyler Moore, the star of TV's beloved The Mary Tyler Moore Show whose comic realism helped revolutionize the depiction of women on the small screen, has died.

Moore died Wednesday with her husband and friends nearby, her publicist, Mara Buxbaum, said. She was 80.

Moore gained fame in the 1960s as the frazzled wife Laura Petrie on The Dick Van Dyke Show. In the 1970s, she created one of TV's first career-woman sitcom heroines in The Mary Tyler Moore Show.

She won seven Emmy awards over the years and was nominated for an Oscar for her 1980 portrayal of an affluent mother whose son is accidentally killed in Ordinary People.

She had battled diabetes for many years. In 2011, she underwent surgery to remove a benign tumour on the lining of her brain.

Moore's first major TV role was on the classic sitcom The Dick Van Dyke Show, in which she played the young homemaker wife of Van Dyke's character, comedy writer Rob Petrie, from 1961-66.

With her unerring gift for comedy, Moore seemed perfectly fashioned to the smarter wit of the new, post-Eisenhower age. As Laura, she traded in the housedress of countless sitcom wives and clad her dancer's legs in Capri pants that were as fashionable as they were suited to a modern American woman.

Laura was a dream wife and mother, but not perfect. Viewers identified with her flustered moments and her protracted, plaintive cry to her husband: "Ohhhh, Robbbb!"

Moore's chemistry with Van Dyke was unmistakable. Decades later, he spoke warmly of the chaste but palpable off-screen crush they shared during the show's run.

But it was as Mary Richards, the plucky Minneapolis TV news producer on The Mary Tyler Moore Show (1970-77), that Moore truly made her mark.

At a time when women's liberation was catching on worldwide, her character brought to TV audiences an independent, 1970s career woman.

Mary Richards was comfortable being single in her 30s, and while she dated, she wasn't desperate to get married. She sparred affectionately with her gruff boss, Lou Grant, played by Ed Asner and addressed always as "Mr. Grant." And millions agreed with the show's theme song that she could "turn the world on with her smile."

The show was filled with laughs. But no episode was more memorable than the bittersweet finale when new management fired the entire WJM News staff — everyone but the preening, clueless anchorman, Ted Baxter. Thus did the series dare to question whether Mary Richards actually did "make it after all."

The series ran seven seasons and won 29 Emmys, a record that stood for a quarter century until Frasier broke it in 2002.

The Mary Tyler Moore Show spawned the spin-offs Rhoda, (1974-78), starring Valerie Harper; Phyllis (1975-77), starring Cloris Leachman; and Lou Grant (1977-82), starring Asner in a rare drama spun off from a comedy.

Mary Richards "certainly was never a character that I had to develop when we were doing the show," Moore said in a 1995 interview with The Associated Press. "Everything I did was by the seat of the pants. I reacted to every written situation the way I would have in real life."

Mary Tyler Moore was the first in a series of acclaimed, award-winning shows she produced with her second husband, Grant Tinker, who died in November 2016, through their MTM Enterprises. The Bob Newhart Show, Hill Street Blues, St. Elsewhere and WKRP in Cincinnati are among the MTM series that followed.

Moore won her seventh Emmy in 1993, for supporting actress in a miniseries or special, for a Lifetime network movie, Stolen Babies. She had won two for The Dick Van Dyke Show and the other four for Mary Tyler Moore.

In 2012, Moore received the Screen Actors Guild's lifetime achievement award.

Moore endured personal tragedy in real life, too. The same year Ordinary People came out, her only child, Richard, who'd had trouble in school and with drugs, accidentally shot himself at 24. Her younger sister, Elizabeth, died at 21 from a combination of a painkillers and alcohol.

In her 1995 autobiography After All, Moore admitted she helped her terminally ill brother try to commit suicide by feeding him ice cream laced with a deadly overdose of drugs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Anyone? Lil' Wayne's Miami Beach house has been on the market for almost two years

MEET THE CONDO

INK

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Project overview

Live the downtown lifestyle, without the downtown price tag. Living in INK is smaller, smarter living; with clever design, a smaller mortgage, an efficient home and more room to breathe with artistic exteriors that feature bold colour.

Housing amenities

Space-hungry activities are solved with convenient amenities, including a rooftop patio with an all-season glass lounge, a repair workshop, a dog-wash station, and secure bike storage. The INK lobby will be host to a rotating showcase of locally created artwork.

Location and transit

Located in East Village, INK is just three blocks from City Hall C-train station, which makes transit an efficient option. Walkability is also very high in this neighbourhood, with major roadways just moments away.

In the neighbourhood

The redeveloped East Village features public art and is a hub for the New Central Library, the National Music Centre and public spaces like RiverWalk and St. Patrick's Island. Local coffee shops and eateries are within walking distance.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

NEED TO KNOW

What: INK
Builder: Battistella Developments
Architect: S2 Architecture
Location: 624 8 Avenue S.E in East Village
Building: 14-storey building with 119 micro condos
Sizes: 368 to 689 sq. ft.
Pricing: $224,500 to $459,500
Suites: One bedroom, One bedroom with den, two bedroom
Status: Pre-construction — 65 per cent sold
Sales Centre: Unit 108, 535 8 Ave. S.E
Email: info@battistella.ca
Phone: 403-452-9268

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

1 FINAL SELLOUT

THE RIVER By Ledcor: THE RIVER is a 15-storey tower luxury residential condo project located on the north bank of the Elbow River in trendy Mission. The project consists of 38 premium residences ranging in size from 1,600 square feet to 5,600 square feet. Located at 135 26th Avenue S.W., arrange a tour by visiting therivercalgary.com.

2 PRE-SELLING

Avenue33 by Sarina: This five-story mixed use development features 40 residential boutiques and lofts in the heart of Marda Loop, with access to 130 nearby shops, services and restaurants. Check out the Sales Centre at 1915 33 Ave. S.W.

3 STILL SELLING

6th And Tenth By Lamb Development Corp: Units in 31-storey condo tower start at $215,900 and put you right downtown with access to everything. For more information visit the Presentation Centre located at the southeast corner of 10th Ave. and 6th St. S.W.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

Design by the people, for the people

SMITHSONIAN

New exhibit a testament to 'can do' spirit

By the People: Designing a Better America looks at how design can factor into creating better communities, and how the members of those communities can influence good design.
MATT FLYNN/COOPER HEWITT, SMITHSONIAN DESIGN MUSEUM

By the People: Designing a Better America is not your typical design show. There is no posh furniture, and any glitz comes intertwined with grit. The show is a paean to local ingenuity and "can do" spirit.

These are designs intended to save lives or improve the quality of life for communities in need.

The show, on view at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum here through Feb. 26, features 60 design projects from across America. Some aim to expand access to education, food, health care and affordable housing. Others are meant to increase social and economic inclusion or improve alternative transportation.

The vast exhibit was organized by Cynthia E. Smith, the museum's curator of socially responsible design, who travelled tens of thousands of kilometres and devoted over two years to exploring shrinking post-industrial cities, sprawling metropolitan areas, struggling rural towns, and places hit by disasters or poverty, in search of inspiring design projects.

"I travelled to places of persistent poverty, to reservations. One big takeaway is that poverty is often hidden, but it is all around us," Smith says. "I hope people going through the exhibit begin to see that the causes of poverty are old and complex, and so the design solutions to various aspects are also complex."

For instance, the exhibit features Cleveland's Evergreen Cooperatives, meant to build wealth for low-income residents while reducing the area's carbon footprint. The co-operatives, which include a green laundry, an alternative-energy enterprise and a hydroponic greenhouse, provide training and create jobs, while also serving area hospitals and businesses.

Also in Cleveland, the Collinwood Community Center, built on the site of a former K-mart store, has turned a blighted eyesore into a colourful community hub with pools, gyms and other facilities.

> **One big takeaway is that poverty is often hidden, but it is all around us.**
> Cynthia E. Smith

Around the country, Smith says, abandoned strip malls are being redesigned and converted by communities into libraries, schools, museums, day care centres and flea markets.

In Texas, the Rapido Rapid Recovery Housing program rethinks the model for large-scale rebuilding after natural disasters. Rapido quickly deploys a 400-square-foot "core" housing unit containing a living space, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom on a family's property. While the disaster-relief application process gets underway, architects and contractors work with families to expand and customize the unit.

The show also includes futuristic, fuel-efficient commuter vehicles made of aluminum and steel, with tiny moped motors. The vehicles were created by a Michigan design team called The Future People to get people around cities and suburbs at minimal cost.

The show begins with a section on design solutions to improve interactions between police officers and the communities they serve. In Chicago, for instance, a basketball court was built on a vacant lot attached to a police station to encourage interaction. As the exhibit continues up a side staircase, charts show housing costs and the salaries required to afford them in various parts of New York City.

In the museum's Process Lab, visitors of all ages can try coming up with their own design solutions to different community challenges.

Organized into thematic sections — Act, Save, Share, Live, Learn and Make — the show is the third in a series devoted to socially responsible design. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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New year, new financial you

BUDGETING

How to recover from a holiday spending hangover

Ryan Starr

If you had a heavy-spending holiday season, racking up credit card debt and overdraft charges as you partied and gifted to your heart's delight, you're likely looking to get things in order now the new year's here.

While it can be difficult to recover when you're facing a mountain of debt, the situation can be avoided next year with a bit of planning and discipline starting now.

"It's just like a diet," says financial literacy consultant and best-selling author Robin Taub. "Better to eat in moderation throughout the year than to try to lose excess pounds you put on throughout the holidays."

Here are some ways to get your personal finances back in shape.

Once the bills are sorted, the budget's created, and spending has been curbed, consider other ways you could generate income. Maybe there's a small business waiting on the horizon. ISTOCK

Analyze spending

It's essential that you have a full understanding of where all your money is going. "If you think you're spending $100 a month off entertaining but it turns out you're spending $400," says Wade Stayzer, vice-president of sales and service with Meridian Credit Union, "then you've got a gap you need to address by shifting your priorities or finding dollars somewhere else. Take advantage of online tools that enable you to track spending and to set up alerts (via text or e-mail) to notify you when you're approaching a low balance in your bank account, or over-spending in a particular category. Taub recommends drawing up a personal net worth statement, calculating everything you own versus the debt you owe. "Then you'll really know where you stand."

Make a budget

Once you have a good picture of how you spend, it's time to create a budget, the cornerstone of any sound financial plan. But a budget only works properly if you stick to it. "It's like going to the gym," says Stayzer. "Make some progress and it becomes habit-forming." There are online tools that help you to create a budget. Look at ways to save on monthly fixed costs, such as your cable TV/Internet/wireless package or insurance policies, whether it's home, auto or life. Shop around and find ways to cut back on your monthly expenditures "Things are more negotiable than you might realize," says Taub. If you're overwhelmed by all this, don't be afraid to ask for help. A qualified financial advisor can walk you through your spending plan and ensure you're being realistic about your budget, and offer tips on how to better handle your finances.

Pay down debt

High interest credit card debt can be a killer. So paying this off must be your top priority. Try to pay down as much as possible, not just the minimum monthly amount. Ideally you should strive not to carry any credit card balance, as interest rates and penalties for late payments are hefty. If you must, look into opportunities to consolidate your multiple credit card debts at a lower interest rate. Once you're paid down your credit card debt, Stayzer recommends that going forward you transfer money from savings or chequing accounts after you've spent on your cards, especially online, where it can be harder to keep track of expenditures.

Start saving

With debt addressed, it's time to start saving. The recommended approach is to make regular contributions throughout the year, and the golden rule is to pay yourself first, ideally by setting up automatic transfers to a savings account, like a Tax Free Savings Account or Registered Retirement Savings Plan. "Then you figure out how to live with the money that's remaining," says Taub. "But you won't have the problem at the end of the year where you need to scrape together money for your RRSP, because it's already done."

If your company has a pension plan, with matching employer contributions, it's best to max this out to take full advantage. If you're setting up a personal RRSP, make use of "robo-advisor" services — online platforms that can help you to determine your investing objectives, experience, tolerance for risk, and time horizon, and then create a personalized portfolio for you that's tailored to meet your needs.

Earn more

You've taken your personal finance snapshot and created a budget, but now you're feeling limited by it. So why not look at ways to make extra money. If you're a salaried employee, ask for a raise. If you're an hourly worker, request more hours. "Or some people have side hustles, jobs they do on the side," Taub says.

That side hustle could eventually be turned into a burgeoning small business, and who knows where things could go from there.

For a fun way to fatten up your savings account, take Stayzer's 52-week challenge: put away $1 the first week, $2 the second, all the way to week 52, when you'll have racked up $1,400, and likely not even noticed.

"You should have fun with savings," he says. "It doesn't have to be all toil and trouble."

Budget bytes: Best apps to keep spending on track

Just because you can afford a fancy smartphone – and accompanying data plan – doesn't mean you've got money to burn, especially since those post-holiday credit card bills rolled in.

The good news is there are many free money management apps that can get you back on track – taking weight off your wallet, while tracking your spending throughout the year.

Considering half of Canadians are spending all or more of their pay cheques, according to a recent Canadian Payroll Association survey, why not get all the free help you can get? Here are a few recommendations:

Mint

Just like the website it's based upon, Intuit's Mint app helps you set budgets, track expenses, and reach financial goals. Easily see what you're spending (and saving) through colour-coded lists, charts and graphs, plus you can track your bank account and credit card balances in real-time, follow investments (including RRSP contributions and balances), and even break out your expenditures by category. Choose to receive alerts when it's time to pay a bill or if you've exceeded your budget. See your credit score, export spreadsheets, and glance at info on your smartwatch. Another convenient feature: a weekly summary email of your money, along with a tab that shows the history of your spending, income, and even net worth over time. Easy to use yet comprehensive in its scope, Mint could be a powerful tool in your arsenal.

moneyStrands

Another smart money management app, moneyStrands lets you instantly and securely access bank and credit card accounts, set budget targets (segregated into categories, such as bills, groceries, car, home, etc.), input dates in a calendar to pay bills (or better yet, have the payments made automatically), track your investments, and see money exchange rates from around the world. If you're saving for something big, like a vacation, you can also use moneyStrands to set a target and track your progress as you work towards your financial goal. Like Mint, you can set up various alerts on your phone or tablet for important finance-related reminders, glance at your financial health with colourful charts and graphs, and this app can also synchronize with the more robust moneyStrands website.

Receipts by Wave

Ideal for freelancers and small businesses, the Toronto-based Receipts by Wave helps you track and categorize all of your paper receipts and, if desired, export them into Wave's free cloud-based accounting software. Specifically, after signing up for a free account, the first step is to use your phone's camera to snap a photo of your receipt, invoice or bill. The OCR (optical character recognition) technology will then process the info and automatically digitize its dollar value, date and other information (you can make changes, if data processed is not 100 per cent correct). Next, select which category the receipt belongs to, such as parking or restaurants. You can submit your receipts via the app, uploaded from the web, imported from cloud accounts (like OneDrive, Google Drive or Dropbox), or emailed to receipts@waveapps.com.

Flipp

Also from Toronto is Flipp, a shopping app designed solely to help save you money. As the name suggests, Flipp lets you use your fingertip to flip through hundreds of flyers from nearby retailers — whether it's a supermarket, clothing chain, department store, big box electronics outlet, home improvement centre, and so on — and you'll be able to see and virtually clip the sales offered at these locations. Wirelessly print coupons, save deals to a shopping list, and even read reviews or watch product videos. What's more, you can load up all your loyalty cards, such as Shopper's Optimum and the SCENE card, so you don't need to carry all that plastic with you to the mall; the cashier simply scans your phone for you to collect the rewards. For online shoppers, the eBates app and website gives you a percentage back on purchases made online at (many) participating stores. MARC SALTZMAN

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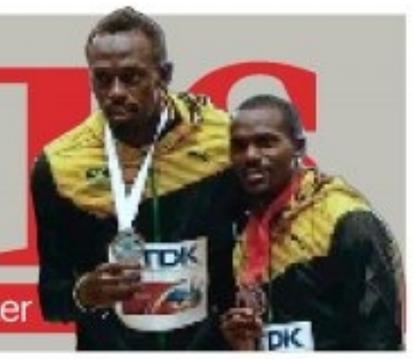
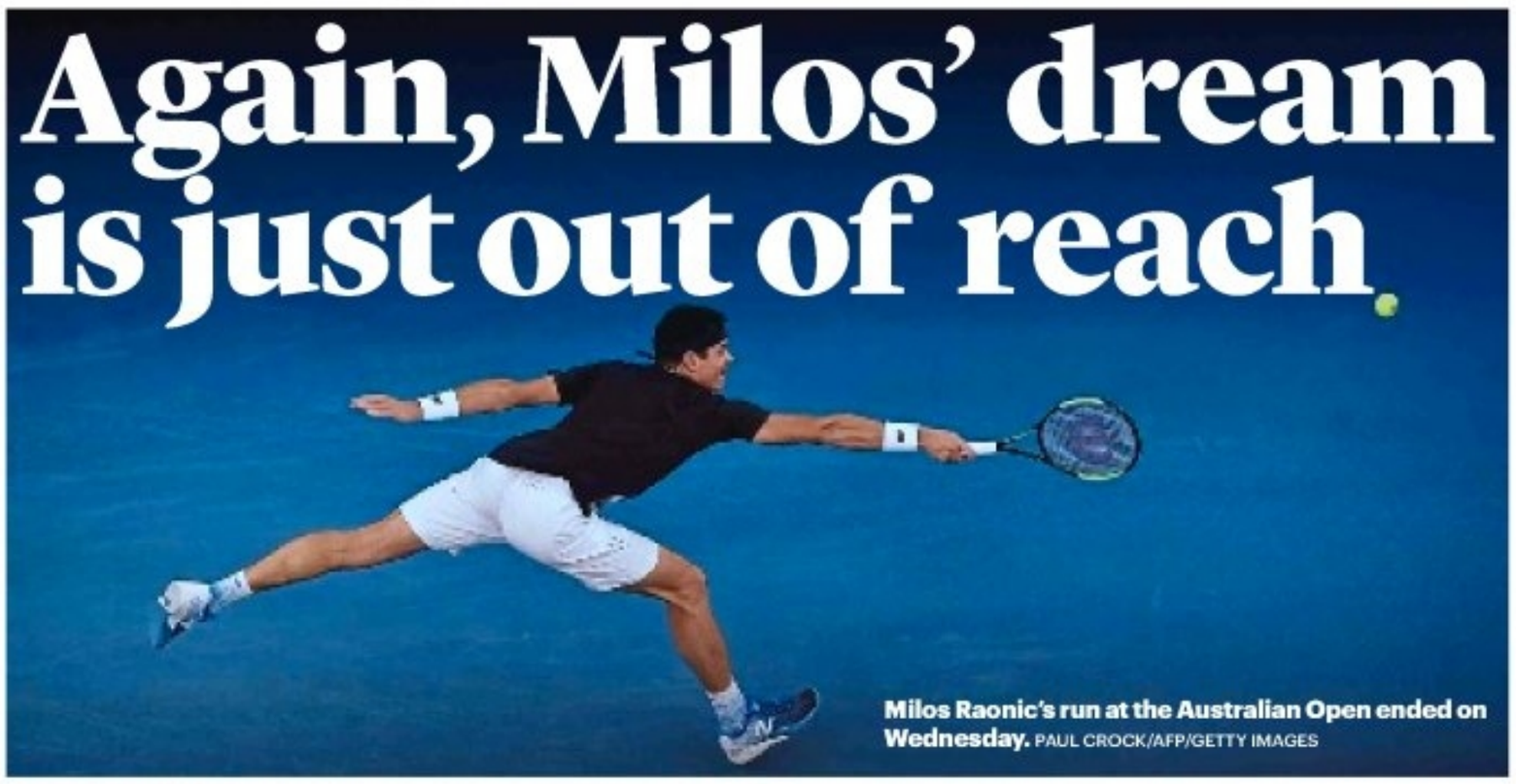
metro SPORTS



Usain Bolt has lost one of his nine Olympic gold medals in a doping case involving Jamaican relay teammate Nesta Carter

Again, Milos' dream is just out of reach



Milos Raonic's run at the Australian Open ended on Wednesday. PAUL CROCK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Ruthless Nadal spoils Canuck star's big shot for a major win

Canadian tennis star Milos Raonic limped out of the Australian Open on Wednesday after a nagging thigh injury flared up during a quarter-final loss to Spanish star Rafael Nadal.

Raonic, the third seed from Thornhill, Ont., was trying to repeat his best showing at the Grand Slam tournament by reaching the semifinals for a second straight year. He lost to Andy Murray in the 2016 semis.

Many wondered if this was Raonic's year after top-ranked Murray and No. 2 Novak Djokovic were upset in earlier rounds.

It was been a struggle from the beginning, however, as Raonic came down with a cold early in the tournament and was bed-ridden for a day. His timing seemed slightly off against Roberto Bautista Agut in the round of 16, when he racked up 55 unforced errors and even uncharacteristically hurled his racket to the court midway through the third set.

He appeared to be feeling better by Wednesday until he had a recurrence of an adductor injury in the 6-4, 7-6 (7), 6-4 loss to Nadal.

"These last two and a half weeks have been quite difficult, just trying to manage everything," he said. "First, dealing with the physical aspect, then getting myself quite ready, I thought, making the most of that. Then dealing with the health aspect and now with this."

> **I just wasn't able to push back behind the baseline.**
> Raonic on Nadal

Raonic, 26, said he came into Melbourne nursing his thigh muscle after injuring it earlier this month in Brisbane.

"I got it to pretty good shape," he said. "We still had to monitor it and then today I hurt another aspect of it."

He required treatment on the leg in the second set Wednesday.

"I hope it's nothing too serious," added Raonic, who has struggled with adductor problems in the past.

He defeated Nadal in their last meeting, which came at the same tournament in Brisbane where Raonic said he tweaked his adductor. This time, Raonic said, "he played better than I did."

The 30-year-old Nadal saved six set points in the second set, including two in the 13-minute tiebreaker.

"There were some opportunities in the second set, other than that, there wasn't much for me to hold onto," Raonic said.

"I just wasn't able to push him back behind the baseline like I was a few weeks ago."

Nadal will play Grigor Dimitrov on Friday, the day after 35-year-old Roger Federer takes on 31-year-old Stan Wawrinka in an all-Swiss semifinal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A joyous Rafa Nadal celebrates victory GETTY IMAGES

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Allocation of players announced by CSA

The Canadian Soccer Association has announced that 10 national team players will be allocated this season to the National Women's Soccer League.

Canada captain Christine Sinclair will return to the Portland Thorns.

She is among eight players returning to NWSL who were on the CSA's allocation list released Wednesday.

The Canadian and U.S. Soccer federations allocate their players across the league's 10 teams and pay their salaries.

Joining Sinclair on the list are Janine Beckie (Houston Dash), Allysha Chapman (Boston Breakers), Sabrina D'Angelo (North Carolina Courage), Stephanie Labbe (Washington Spirit), Diana Matheson, (Seattle Reign), Desiree Scott (FC Kansas City) and Shelina Zadorsky (Washington Spirit). Recently drafted players Kailen Sheridan (Sky Blue) and Nichelle Prince (Houston Dash) were also among the allocated players.

The CSA allocated 11 players to the league last season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Christine Sinclair GETTY IMAGES

NBA

Kings conquer Cavs amid LeBron criticism

WEDNESDAY in Ohio

116	112
KINGS	CAVALIERS

Arron Afflalo dropped a 3-pointer with 17.3 seconds left in overtime, lifting the Sacramento Kings to a 116-112 win Wednesday night over the slumping Cleveland Cavaliers, who lost for the sixth time in eight games amid criticism by LeBron James.

DeMarcus Cousins had 28 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings, who trailed by five in overtime before battling back. Darren Collison added 23 points for Sacramento. After Afflalo's 3, James missed a deep 3-point attempt for the Cavs, who were then forced to foul Cousins. Sacramento's big man dropped one of two to put away the reeling NBA champions. James finished with 24 points, Kevin Love had 21 points but it wasn't enough.

This was the Cavs' first game since James called the team's roster "top heavy" and questioned whether the organization was fully committed to winning a second title. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Gulutzan: Flames 'pathetic' in Habs rout

Calgary Flames coach Glen Gulutzan did not mince words after his side's lopsided loss in Montreal.

The Flames were the second-best team for much of the night as the Canadiens came away with a 5-1 victory to extend Calgary's losing skid to four games. A frustrated Gulutzan did not hesitate to criticize his players after the game.

"We were pathetic," he said. "It was a pathetic display. No bite back, no kick back. Our top guys didn't do anything. We needed someone to step up.

"You just have to man up. We play well, one bad thing happens and we crumple. Our starts have been good, but one little shot goes in and we crumple. We have no resolve to stay with it."

Montreal (29-13-7) took a lead late in the first period and never looked back. Alexander Radulov scored twice and Carey Price made 30 saves for his 22nd win of the season. Sam Bennett scored Calgary's lone goal with just one second remaining in the third period to deny Price's shutout bid.

Glen Gulutzan GETTY IMAGES

Down 3-0 in the second, the Flames (24-24-3) had a golden opportunity to get back into the game but made nothing of it. With Jeff Petry and Jacob De La Rose in the penalty box, Calgary was on a 5-on-3 power play for 47 seconds. To make matters trickier for Montreal, Tomas Plekanec was playing without his stick. But time ticked away without a single shot on Price.

"We had our windows to get back in," said Gulutzan. "We got a 5-on-3, broken stick, we couldn't even muster a shot. What bugs me most is we play when it's easy. If we have that mentality, we have to fight out of it." The Flames, who were coming off a 4-0 losing effort in Toronto on Monday, started out with good energy despite playing in the second game of a back-to-back. But for the ninth consecutive game, Calgary conceded a goal first. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Malkin to miss All-Star game

Pittsburgh Penguins centre Evgeni Malkin is dealing with a lower-body injury that will keep the Russian star out of Sunday's All-Star game.

Coach Mike Sullivan announced the injury on Wednesday, a day after Malkin played 18:27 in a 3-0 home loss to St. Louis.

Malkin appeared to be hurt after taking a hit from St. Louis' Joel Edmundson. Malkin has 22 goals this season for the defending Stanley Cup champions and his 54 points are tied with Sidney Crosby for the team lead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liverpool fail to reach final

Liverpool's season is in danger of unraveling after Jurgen Klopp's team missed out on a place in the English League Cup final following a 1-0 loss to Southampton at Anfield on Wednesday.

Substitute Shane Long scored in injury time to seal a 2-0 aggregate win in the semifinals for Southampton, which reached the final of English football's second-tier cup competition for a second time. Manchester United — leading Hull 2-0 in the other semifinal — is their likely final opponent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS ON PAGE 24

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Crunchy Asian Chicken Salad

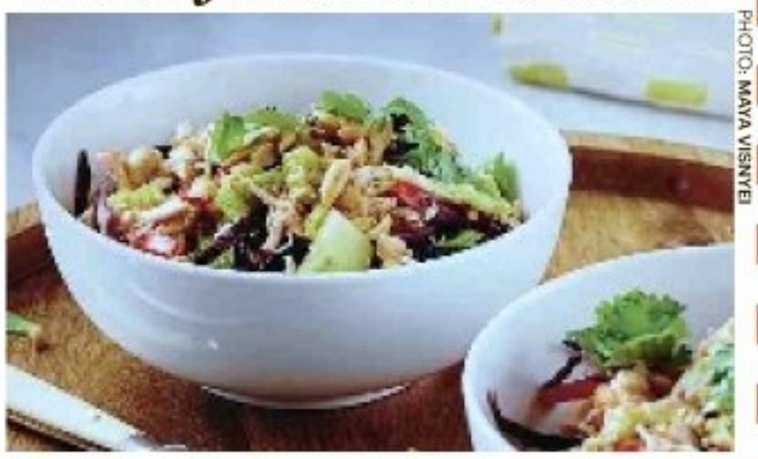


PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

We're addicted to the sweet, salty, hearty, crunchy combination of this dinner salad.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 2 chicken breasts
- 1/4 - 1/2 head of purple cabbage, thinly sliced
- 1/4 - 1/2 head of green cabbage, thinly sliced
- 2 carrots, shredded
- 1 red pepper, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cucumber, peeled and sliced
- 2 spring onions, sliced handful cilantro, chopped
- 1/3 cup peanuts, chopped (optional)

Dressing
- 1 Tbsp sesame oil
- 1 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp sriracha
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tsp fish sauce
- 1 tsp sugar

Directions

1. Fill a skillet with water and season with salt and pepper. Bring to a simmer. Place chicken breasts in the water and cook 10 to 12 minutes, depending on how thick the breasts are. Remove meat from skillet and place on a clean plate. Use two forks to shred the chicken.

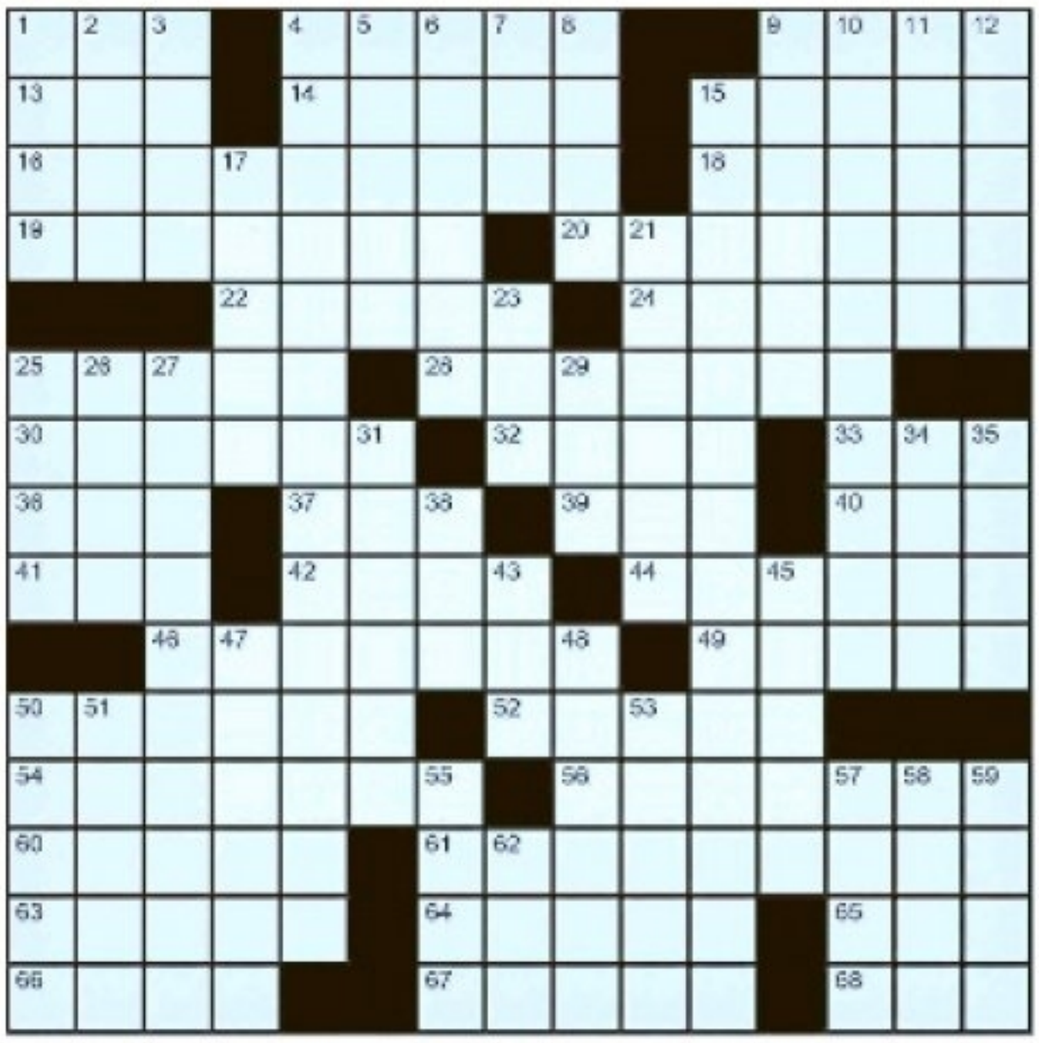
2. In a small bowl, whisk together the dressing ingredients

3. In a large serving bowl, toss together the vegetables and chicken. Drizzle dressing over the salad and toss again. Serve the salad in bowls and garnish with cilantro and chopped peanuts.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Groceries holder
4. Long for
9. Lump of soil
13. "Strangers __ Train" (1951)
14. Golden hit song from the past
15. French nursery rhyme: "__ Jacques"
16. One of Saint Basil's Cathedral's vivid architectural features in Moscow: 2 wds.
18. The Cloister and the Hearth novelist Charles
19. Department's boss
20. As a non-looking-forward-to event
22. Lead/tin alloy
24. They make things less difficult
25. 1st Greek letter
28. One taking it a bit too easy on the job
30. Platinum Blonde hit: "__ Really Matter"
32. Litigates
33. Mil. rank
36. Matterhorn, for one
37. Sort of spell
39. Rx watchdog in The States
40. When repeated, a villain's laugh
41. Travel directions provider
42. Luxury label
44. Full
46. South American country
49. Colleague of Happy and Doc
50. Powerful
52. __ of vantage (Favourable position)
54. Retro hairstyling products
56. Dreamy
60. Ms. Ekberg
61. Purr-chasers of Purina products: 2 wds.
63. Wheezing noises
64. "La Dolce Vita" (1960) actress, __ Aimee ...co-star of #60-Across
65. Up to, in verse
66. Building extensions
67. After-dinner candies
68. Quebec seasoning

DOWN
1. Movie set's overhead holder of a microphone
2. Ms. Faris
3. Laundry detergent brand
4. Toronto's hip 'Square' location: 3 wds.
5. Respected person in the community
6. Decorates
7. Flange
8. Call for
9. Iron-ee
10. Prime Minister's activity
11. Sequence
12. Feats
15. Cult TV series of 1999 to 2000 on which Seth Rogen starred: 3 wds.
17. Promises
21. Diminish/fall back
23. Chicago trains
25. U2's bassist Mr. Clayton
26. Ms. Falana
27. Cook's often-used grinder: 2 wds.
29. "__ Wiedersehen!"
31. Who-needs-medical-assistance-first process
34. "Runaway Bride" (1999) star Richard
35. 1970 Carpenters hit: "(__ Long to Be) Close to You"
38. Said a li'l Rocky-style 'hello'
43. Bird of myth
45. Clown in the opera Pagliacci
47. English composer, Eric __ (b.1886 - d.1957)
48. Encourage at the stadium: 2 wds.
50. Fifth wheel
51. Of varied pitch
53. Enter the data
55. Fleece
57. Research papers, e.g.
58. Mr. Nastase of tennis
59. Convict's unit
62. Tropical cuckoo bird

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Dealings with bosses, VIPs and parents are unpredictable today. If you are upset by what they say, don't quit your day job. Give things a sober second thought.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Travel plans will be delayed, canceled or subject to detours and changes. Likewise, publishing, the media, medicine and the law are subject to sudden changes.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Double-check bank accounts and important agreements, because something to do with inheritances, shared property, taxes and debt might throw you for a loop. Know what's happening.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
A friend or partner will throw you a curveball today. He or she might want more independence in the relationship. This person also might make a weird accusation!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your job's routine will be interrupted today. Staff shortages, equipment breakdowns, computer problems, delivery delays or other unexpected situations will force you to deal with surprises. Be cool.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is an accident-prone day for your kids, so be vigilant. Know where they are at all times. Be careful to remove potentially hazardous equipment or items around them.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Something unpredictable will affect your home or family today. It may be an argument, or a minor breakage could occur. Someone might have surprising news.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Be careful today and take your time so that you are mindful and aware, because this is an accident-prone day for you. Think before you speak, and think before you act.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Keep an eye on your finances today, because something unexpected will affect them. You might find money, or you might lose money. Something you own might be lost, stolen or damaged.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Today you feel impulsive and rebellious. Even though you usually are cautious and careful, today you might shock someone with a sudden decision or action.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You feel restless today. You feel as if you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. You might be agitated because of changes taking place in other people's lives around you.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A friend might surprise you today. Something unexpected will take place with someone you know, perhaps in a group setting.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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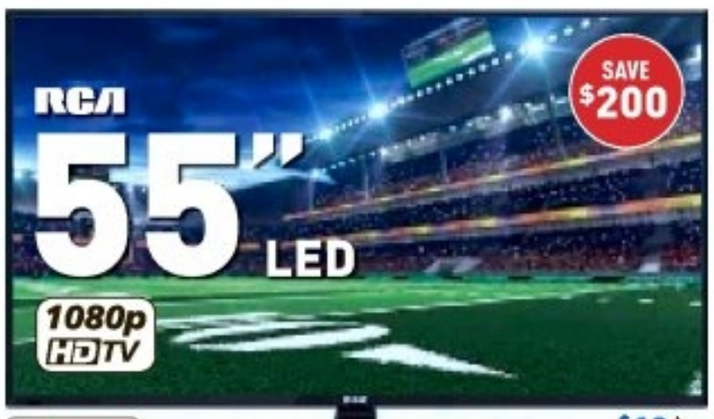

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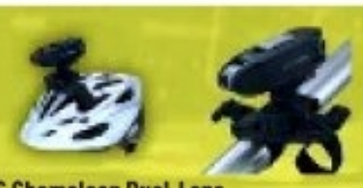

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